NOW ON SALE

小さい羊は夢をみる
魔猫ロノポップ　全7巻
シックスハーフ①～⑤（以下続刊）

サムシング　全4巻
あなたとあの星の下に
天使の卵―エンジェルス　エッグ
原作　村山早紀

2012年2月現在

Cookie

カバーイラスト　池谷理香子
カバーデザイン　目黒デザイン

RICACO IKETANI

シックスハーフ
SIX HALF
5
池谷理香子

Cookie
BUNCH MASCOT COMICS

RMC
Cookie

シックスハーフ 5

池谷理香子

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集英社 43269－80

事故で記憶を失ってしまった詩織は兄・明夫への寂しい気持ちを感じる。スカウトされた日に出会った詩織は、モデル活動をスタート。記憶喪失後、初めて人に認められた気がした詩織は、現場作業を確実にこなしつつ、明夫も、万一、明夫は恋人の妹に「自分と詩織は血が繋がってない」と告白して…P

RICACO IKETANI

ご飯を作るとお腹にもっていかれる。これっぽっちも痩せる気配がないぞ！と材料を買い込んでみるものの、結局冷凍食品とかになっちゃう。運動にも全くつながらない。

RIBON MASCOT COMICS 2180 Cookie

SIX HALF 5

Iketani Rikako

CHARACTER

登場人物

菊川家の人々

菊川真歩（中1）
MAHO KIKUKAWA

"ブス"等とイジメられた経験から詩織と距離を置く。記憶を失くす前の荒れていた詩織を許す事ができないでいる。

菊川明夫（大2）
AKIO KIKUKAWA

家族思いで、真歩と詩織の良き兄。両親のいない菊川家の父親役であり母親役でもある。家事全般をこなす家庭的な一面も。幼なじみの瑞希とつきあい始める。

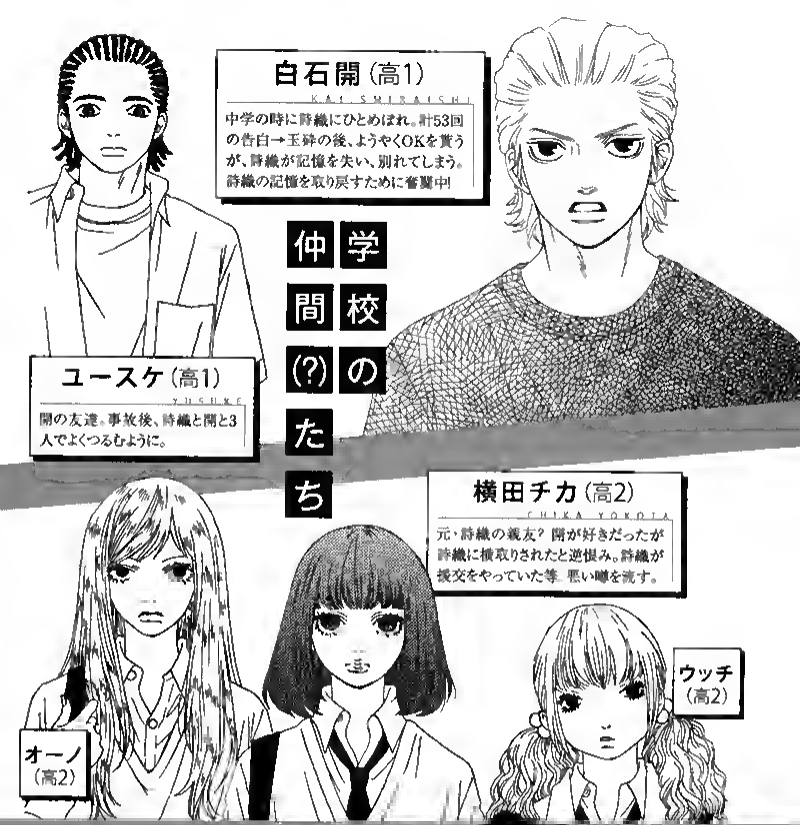
菊川詩織（高2）
SHIORI KIKUKAWA

交通事故に遭ったバイクで事故って記憶を失くす。記憶喪失以前は、派手なギャルで、男遊びがひどかったらしい!?　心の支えである兄の明夫に、恋心を抱いてしまい、とまどう。

以前の詩織

松本瑞希（21）
MIZUKI MATSUMOTO

明夫たちの幼なじみであり、明夫の初恋の相手。詩織の記憶が戻らないことを願っている!?



これまでのあらすじ STORY

バイクで事故ってしまい、自分に関する記憶を失った詩織。全く覚えていないものの、兄・明夫と妹・真歩との3人暮らしがスタートする。

援交をやっていたとか、性病持ちだとか。嫌われ者だったという、以前の自分に関する噂を聞いて、詩織はショック。でも、明夫の「しーちゃんが、だいすき」という言葉に支えられ、再び学校に通うようになる。

しかし、明夫と瑞希が付き合い始めた事で、事態は一変。詩織は、自分の明夫への気持ちが、恋心だと気付いてしまう。

気持ちを紛らわせるため、以前の自分が応募していた、雑誌の読者モデルのオーディションに挑戦する事にした詩織。いつもは優しい明夫が、なぜか反対するのが気になりつつも、書類選考、面接を通過し、カメラテストへと進む。

審査が進むにつれ、記憶を失ってから初めて認められた気がしていた詩織だったが、結果は落選。落ち込んだのも束の間、オーディションで目をつけられた詩織は芸能事務所からのスカウトを受けて!?

詳しくはRMC①～④巻を見てね!

SHI-CHAN AND I ARE NOT RELATED.

シックスハーフ
SIX HALF

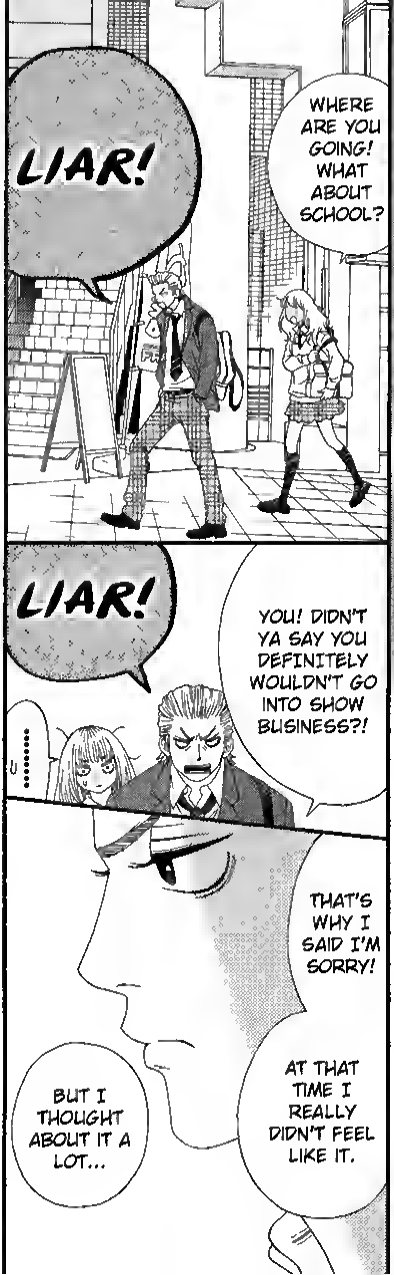
WE AREN'T BLOOD-RELATED SIBLINGS.
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

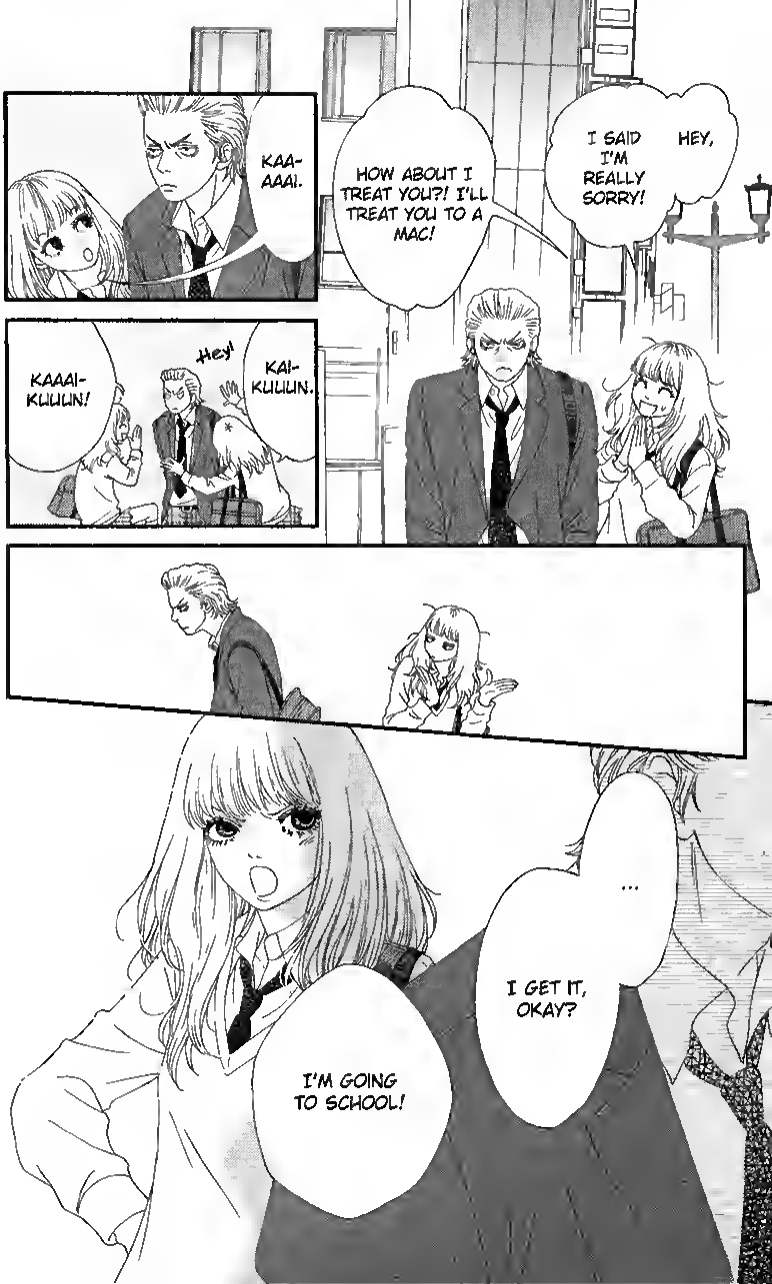
OUR FATHER AND MOTHER BOTH REMARRIED.
I'M THE OFFSPRING OF DAD'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.
SHI-CHAN IS THE CHILD FROM HER MOM'S PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.
MA-CHAN IS THE DAUGHTER OF MY FATHER AND SHI-CHAN'S MOTHER SO SHE'S OUR HALF-SISTER.
...I
I SEE...
HUH—I HAD NO IDEA AT ALL...
HUH...
OH, BUT I'M GLAD! THAT SHIORI-CHAN IS YOUR SISTER.

I LIVED TOGETHER WITH MY MOTHER.
MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND FATHER, DIVORCED WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD.
BUT WHEN I WAS 9, MY MOM DIED.
WHY?
WELL,
SHE SUPPOSEDLY FELL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL AND ENDED UP HAVING A CAR ACCIDENT.
I THINK SHE WORKED VERY HARD, IN ORDER TO RAISE ME.
I thought that I'd be all alone.

SINCE I HADN'T SEEN HIM EVEN ONCE EVER SINCE THE DIVORCE.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT MY DAD WOULD COME FOR ME,
"AKIO"
I NEVER ASKED MY DAD OR MY MOM ABOUT IT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY SPLIT UP.
FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL LIVE WITH ME, OKAY?
I'M YOUR FATHER.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HARD, HUH?
I had no idea first, who that person was.
I clung unto my father and cried.
I remember the touch of his hand.

MY FATHER HAD ALREADY REMARRIED
AND JUST LIKE THAT
I GAINED A NEW MOTHER AND TWO YOUNGER SISTERS.
AT THAT TIME, SHI-CHAN WAS ALREADY 4 YEARS OLD.
MA-CHAN WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS OLD.
SOON AFTER, MY FATHER BOUGHT A HOUSE
AND THE WHOLE FAMILY MOVED INTO IT
"THIS IS THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT KIKUKAWA AKIO-KUN."

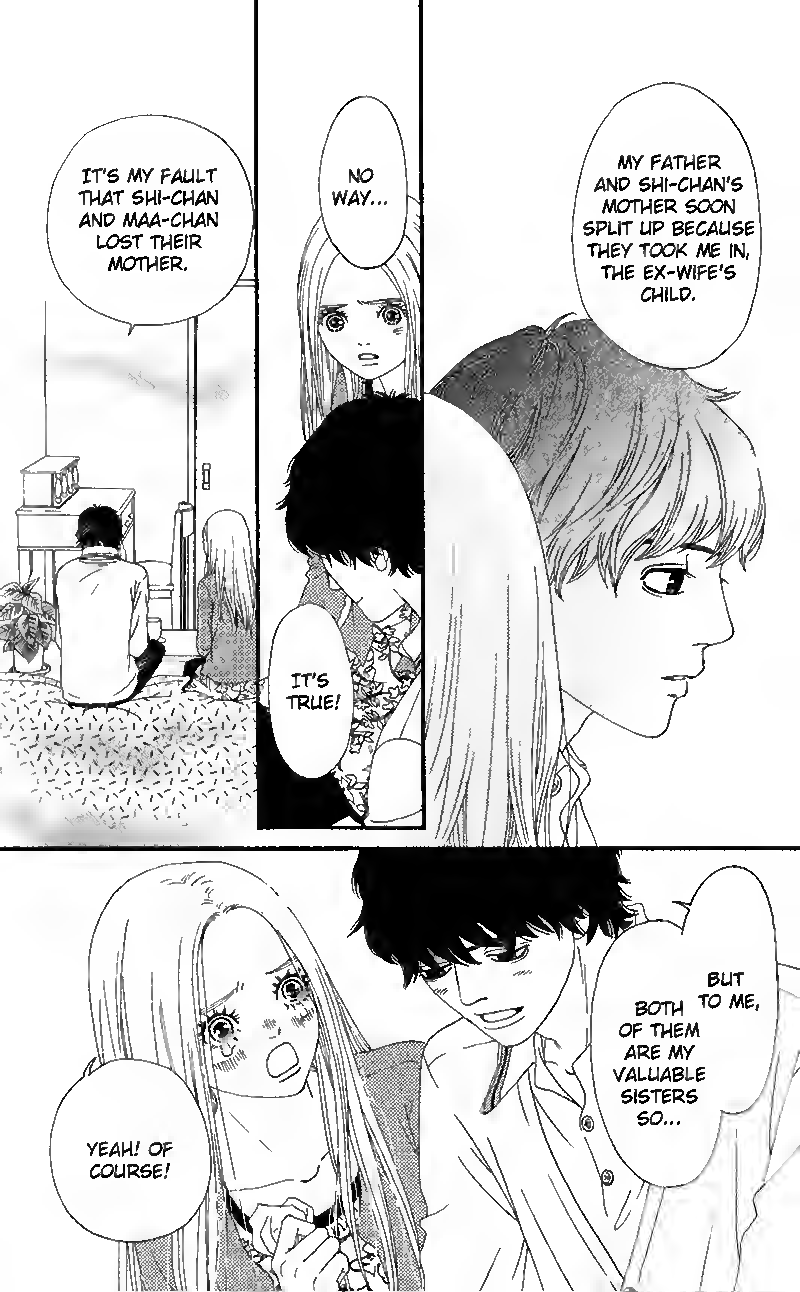

KAI!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING! WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
LIAR!
YOU! DIDN'T YA SAY YOU DEFINITELY WOULDN'T GO INTO SHOW BUSINESS?!
LIAR!
.....
THAT'S WHY I SAID I'M SORRY!
AT THAT TIME I REALLY DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT.
BUT I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT...


KAA-AAAI.
HOW ABOUT I TREAT YOU?! I'LL TREAT YOU TO A MAC!
I SAID HEY, I'M REALLY SORRY!
KAAAI-KUUUN!
Hey!
KAI-KUUUN.
...
I GET IT, OKAY?
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL!

AT THAT TIME, SHI-CHAN AND MAA-CHAN WERE STILL YOUNG SO THEY PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER IT.
THEY ALSO DON'T KNOW THAT OUR PARENTS REMARRIED.
FATHER SAID THAT HE'D TELL THEM WHEN THEY GROW UP, I ALSO HAD THAT SAME INTENTION BUT...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN SHI-CHAN ENTERS THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD.
MAYBE SHE'LL FIND OUT FROM SOMEWHERE I WOULDN'T EXPECT.
SO THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT OF TELLING YOU FIRST...

YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT MORE HARDSHIPS THAN I HAD THOUGHT.
I HAD NO IDEA...
SORRY FOR KEEPING QUIET ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW...
NO, NO.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN TELL PEOPLE SO EASILY.
Sniffle
NOW I KNOW WHY YOU CHERISH YOUR FAMILY MUCH MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE...

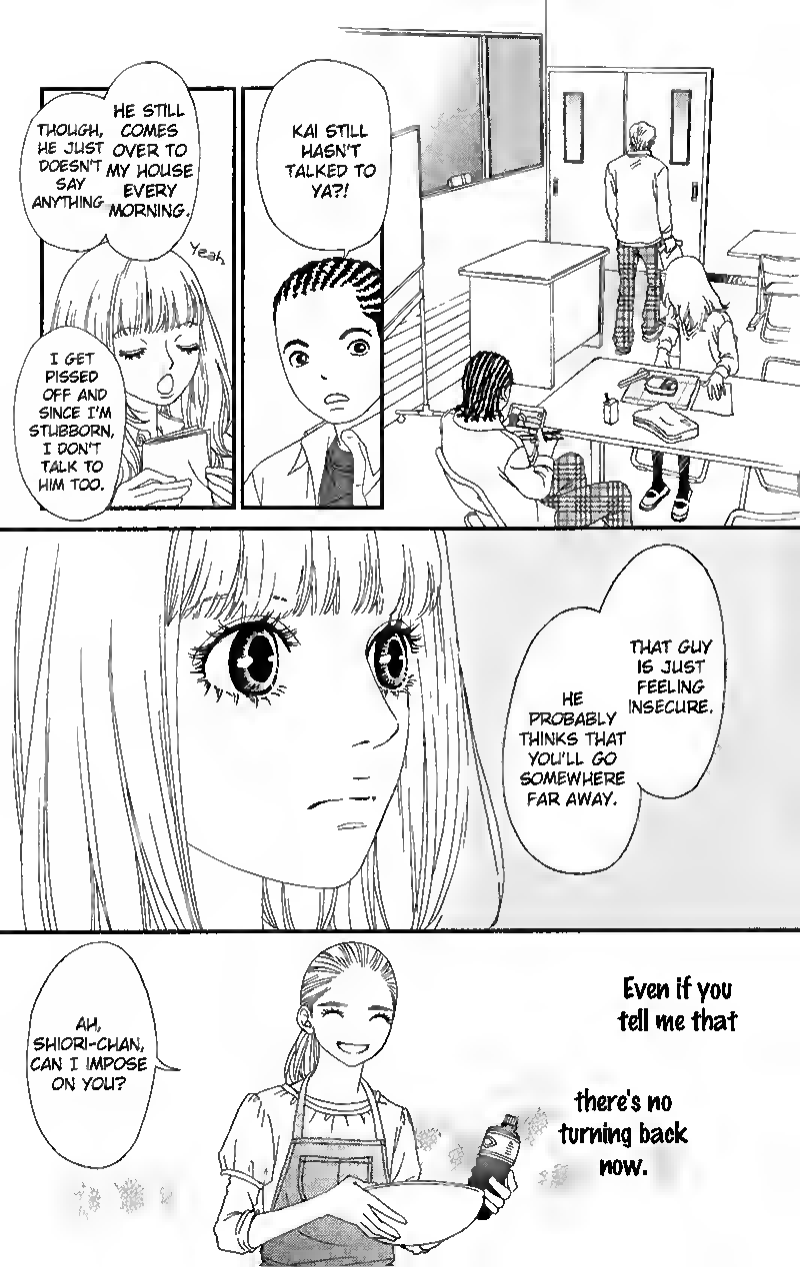

MY FATHER AND SHI-CHAN'S MOTHER SOON SPLIT UP BECAUSE THEY TOOK ME IN, THE EX-WIFE'S CHILD.
NO WAY...
IT'S MY FAULT THAT SHI-CHAN AND MAA-CHAN LOST THEIR MOTHER.
IT'S TRUE!
BUT TO ME, BOTH OF THEM ARE MY VALUABLE SISTERS SO...
YEAH! OF COURSE!

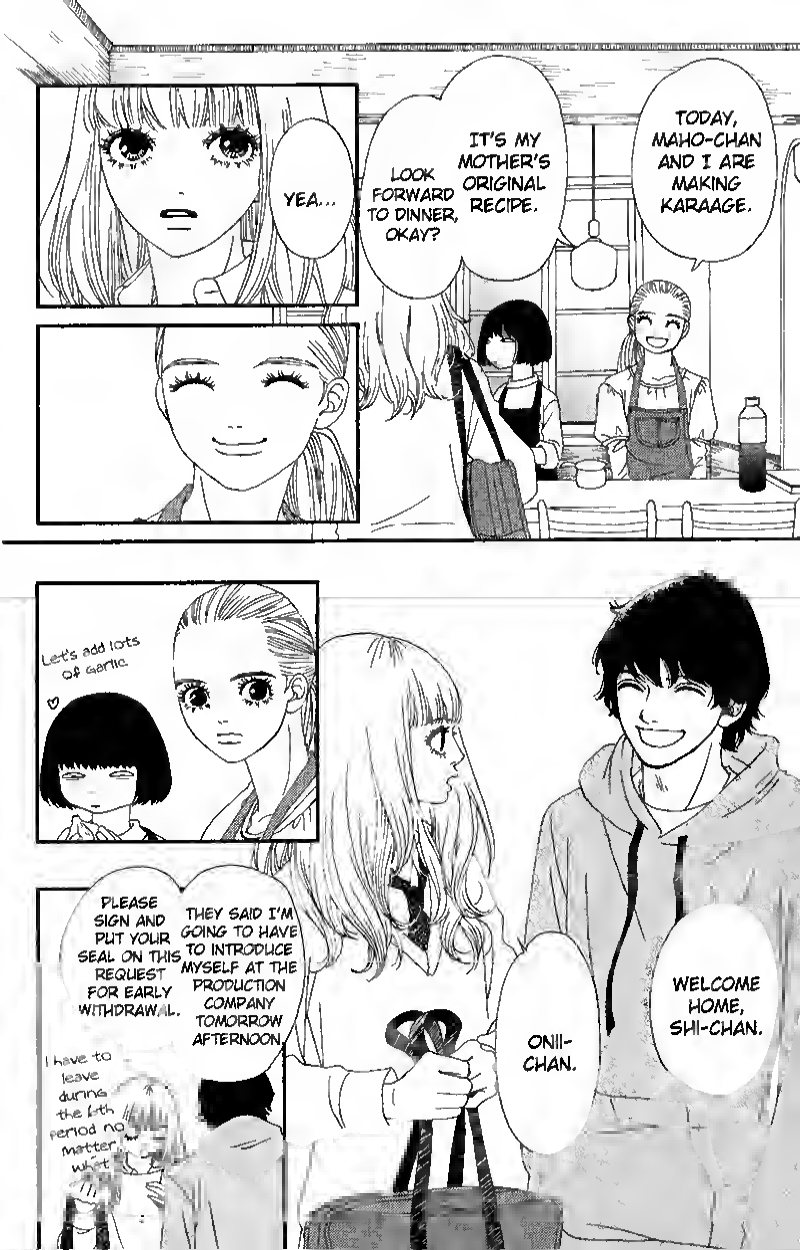
I'm crying too though!
OH NO! AKIO-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU CRYING!
I'M RELIEVED ...
I WAS VERY SCARED TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

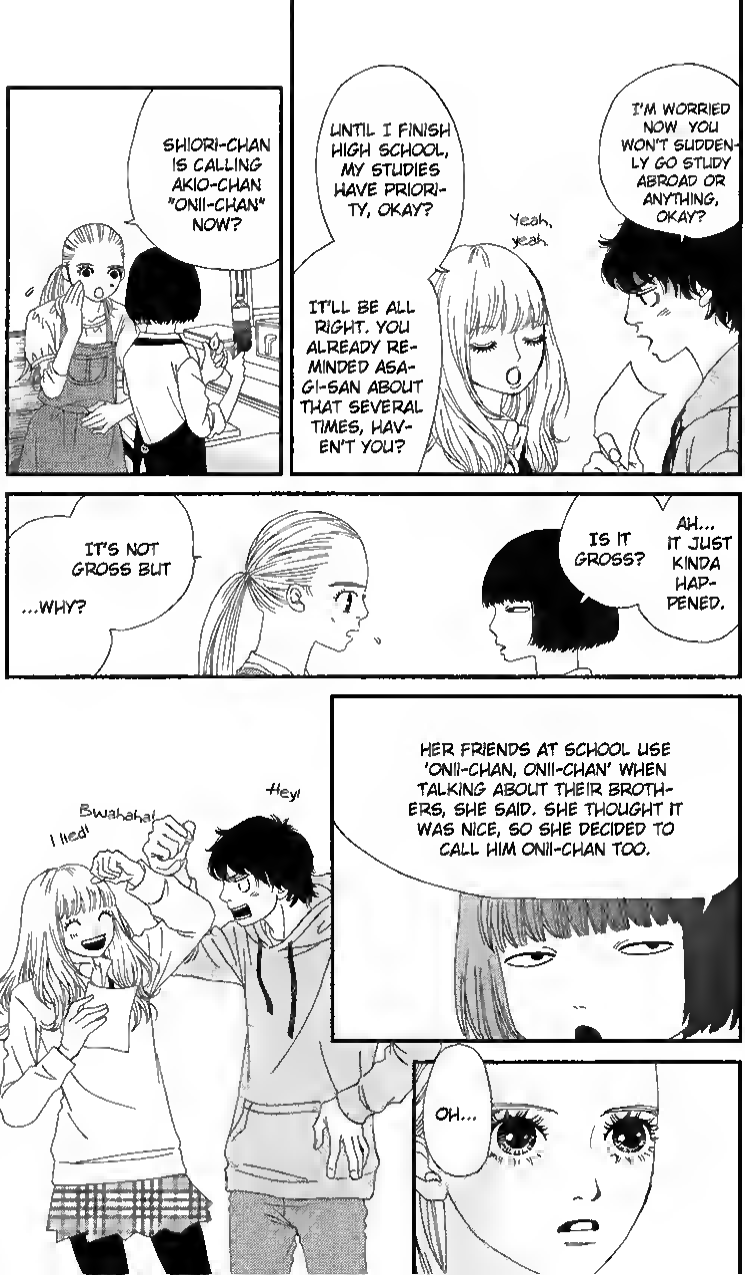
Co Ltd
Amie
HOWEVER, I DON'T WANT TO USE MY REAL NAME.
KIKUKAWA SHIORI IS SUCH A NICE NAME, IS IT NOT?
WHAT! WHY?
IT WAS PUBLISHED IN COOKIE STYLE TOO.
I WANT TO SEPERATE MY WORK FROM MY PERSONAL LIFE SO...
THAT'S FINE.

NEWS CAN SPREAD BY ITSELF ANYWAY, WE JUST NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON YOU.
HUH?! BUT NOWA-DAYS...
YOU ALSO DON'T HAVE TO BLOG OR USE TWITTER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REQUESTS?
NO, I DON'T.
My memory loss,
or the previous me,
A-chan,
or Maa-chan,

have nothing to do with this.
With this other me.
Name: Kurata Ayumu
WHAT'S THAT?
HEY~ WHO ARE YOU CALLING WEIRD~
EHH- THAT'S WEIRD~
Kya
Kya
CLATTER
It's easier to write it that way he said.
By the way, why is your family name in hiragana?
AND KURATA IS SO THAT I MIGHT BE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT I'LL BECOME RICH.
HE SAID THAT AYUMU MEANS 'I WILL WALK THIS ROAD'.
THE ARTIST NAME THE COMPANY PRESIDENT CAME UP WITH.
Name Kurata Ayumu


KAI STILL HASN'T TALKED TO YA?!
HE STILL COMES OVER TO MY HOUSE EVERY MORNING.
THOUGH, HE JUST DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING
Yeah.
I GET PISSED OFF AND SINCE I'M STUBBORN, I DON'T TALK TO HIM TOO.
THAT GUY IS JUST FEELING INSECURE.
HE PROBABLY THINKS THAT YOU'LL GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.
AH, SHIORI-CHAN, CAN I IMPOSE ON YOU?
Even if you tell me that
there's no turning back now.


TODAY, MAHO-CHAN AND I ARE MAKING KARAAGE.
IT'S MY MOTHER'S ORIGINAL RECIPE.
LOOK FORWARD TO DINNER, OKAY?
YEA...
Let's add lots of garlic.
WELCOME HOME, SHI-CHAN.
ONII-CHAN.
THEY SAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
PLEASE SIGN AND PUT YOUR SEAL ON THIS REQUEST FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL.
I have to leave during the 6th period no matter what.


SHIORI-CHAN IS CALLING AKIO-CHAN "ONII-CHAN" NOW?
UNTIL I FINISH HIGH SCHOOL, MY STUDIES HAVE PRIORITY, OKAY?
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. YOU ALREADY REMINDED ASAGI-SAN ABOUT THAT SEVERAL TIMES, HAVEN'T YOU?
Yeah, yeah.
I'M WORRIED NOW YOU WON'T SUDDENLY GO STUDY ABROAD OR ANYTHING, OKAY?
IT'S NOT GROSS BUT
...WHY?
IS IT GROSS?
AH... IT JUST KINDA HAPPENED.
HER FRIENDS AT SCHOOL USE 'ONII-CHAN, ONII-CHAN' WHEN TALKING ABOUT THEIR BROTHERS, SHE SAID. SHE THOUGHT IT WAS NICE, SO SHE DECIDED TO CALL HIM ONII-CHAN TOO.
Bwahaha! I lied!
Hey!
OH...

THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE ASKED ME 'CAN I CALL YOU ONII-CHAN FROM NOW ON?'
MAYBE SHE FEELS MORE SECURE BY CALLING ME THAT.
MAYBE IT FEELS MORE DEPENDABLE THAN 'A-CHAN'.
I SEE . I WONDER IF THAT'S THE CASE...
BUT IT FEELS A LITTLE LONELY.
SINCE I FIRST MET SHI-CHAN, SHE'D ALWAYS USE "A-CHAN, A-CHAN'
SO WHEN SHE CALLS ME "ONII-CHAN" IT FEELS MORE DISTANT.
WELL, I'LL GET USED TO IT.
Hahaha
I got used to that too
WHEN SHE WAS REBELLING, SHE CALLED ME 'ANTA*' OR 'TEMEE*'.

*T/N Both mean 'you' but are quite familiar and rude

I
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? AKIO-CHAN.
MM?
BEFORE SHIORI-CHAN LOST HER MEMORY,
DID SHE KNOW THAT YOU AND HER ARE NOT BLOOD-RELATED?

YEAH,
SHE KNEW.
"SHIORI AND MAHO ARE MY CHILDREN."
"YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND SUCH A THING SINCE YOU ABANDONED YOUR CHILDREN AND WENT TO ANOTHER GUY'S HOUSE!"
"GIVE THEM BACK TO ME!"
"AS LONG AS YOU HAVE AKIO, IT'S FINE ISN'T IT?!"
WHEN SHI-CHAN WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
HER MOTHER SUDDENLY SHOWED UP AT OUR HOUSE ONCE.

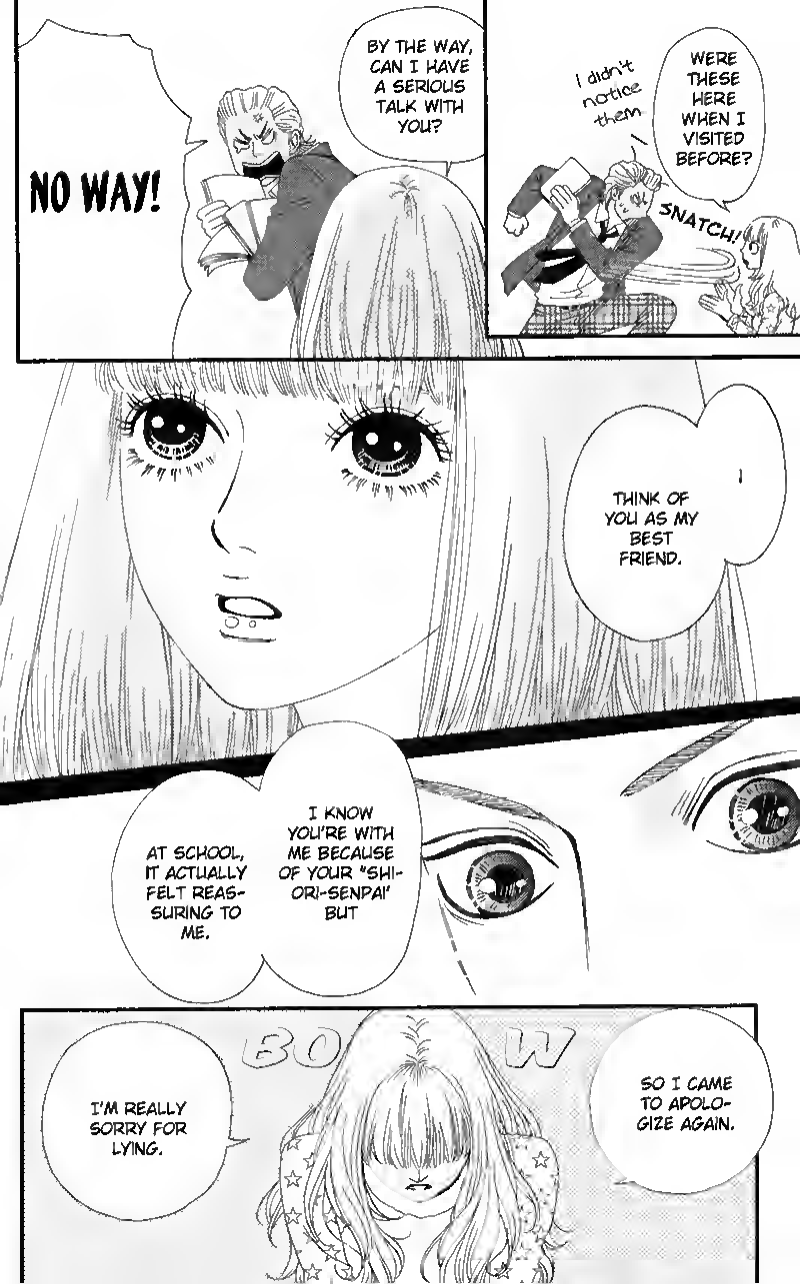
IT WAS LATE, SO MAA-CHAN WAS SLEEPING
BUT SHI-CHAN WAS AWAKE
AND SHE HEARD HER PARENTS TALKING.
WHEN HER MOM LEFT, FATHER EXPLAINED EVERY-THING TO HER.
AND SHI-CHAN'S REACTION WAS...
AT THAT TIME SHE SAID "I DON'T MIND AT ALL" AND JUST LAUGHED,
SHE ALSO CLEARLY SAID "I DON'T WANT TO GO TO MOM'S PLACE."
"WHAT?"
BUT SHE WAS APPROACHING A DIFFICULT AGE...
"WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT BROTHERLY LOOK?"
"IT'S AN-NOYING!"

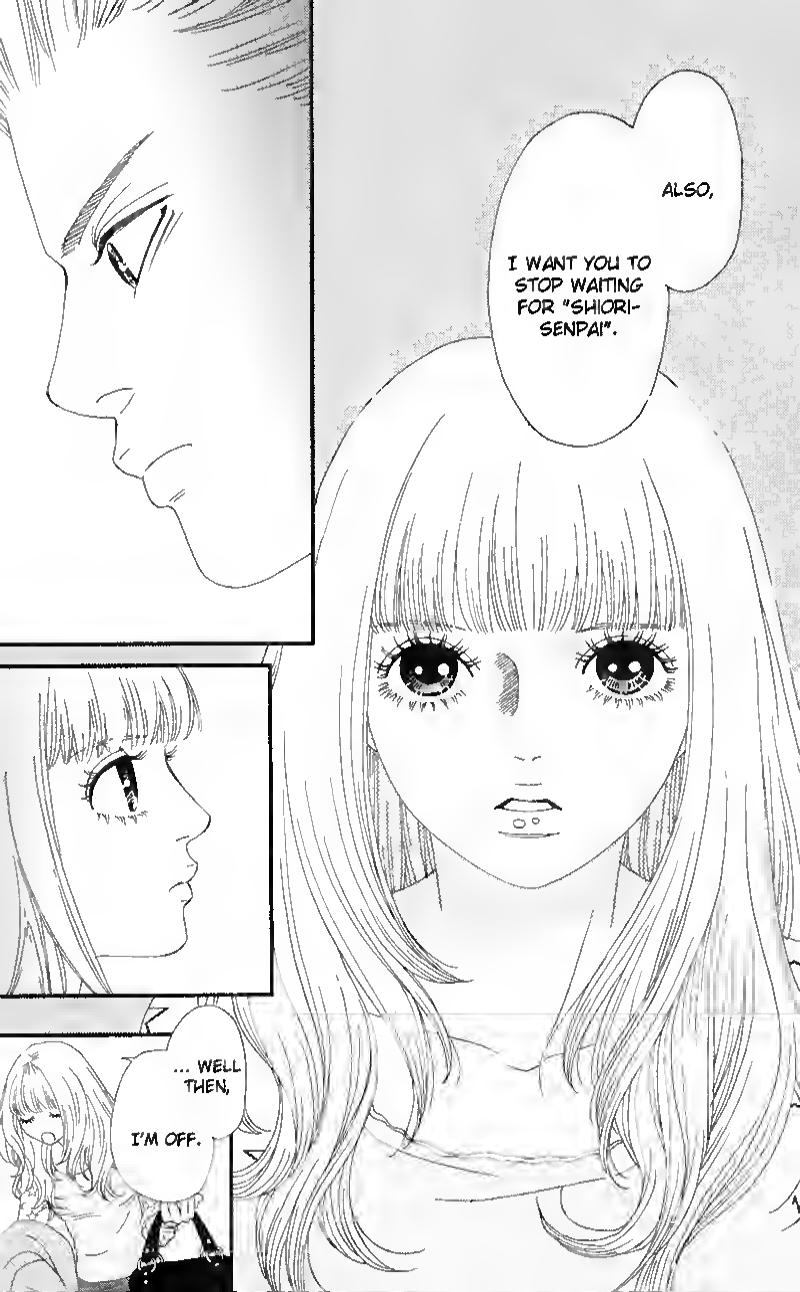
BUT YOU KNOW,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE LOST HOW TEMPER, SHE NEVER TOLD MA-CHAN.
SHI-CHAN WAS ALSO SUFFERING, I THINK.
WHEN SHE FINDS OUT ABOUT ALL THIS AGAIN,
IT MIGHT AFFECT HER MORE THAN BEFORE.
MA-CHAN TOO...
TO BE HONEST, IT'S SCARY TO THINK ABOUT IT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW OFTEN I'VE THOUGHT "IF ONLY WE WERE A REGULAR FAMILY, REGULAR SIBLINGS" UP UNTIL NOW.
Will I lose them?
Like I lost my birth mother?
My new mother?

IT'S OKAY.
Will I end up being alone again?!
And my father?!
Will they go away?!
I WILL ALWAYS STAY WITH YOU.
YOU HAVE ME.

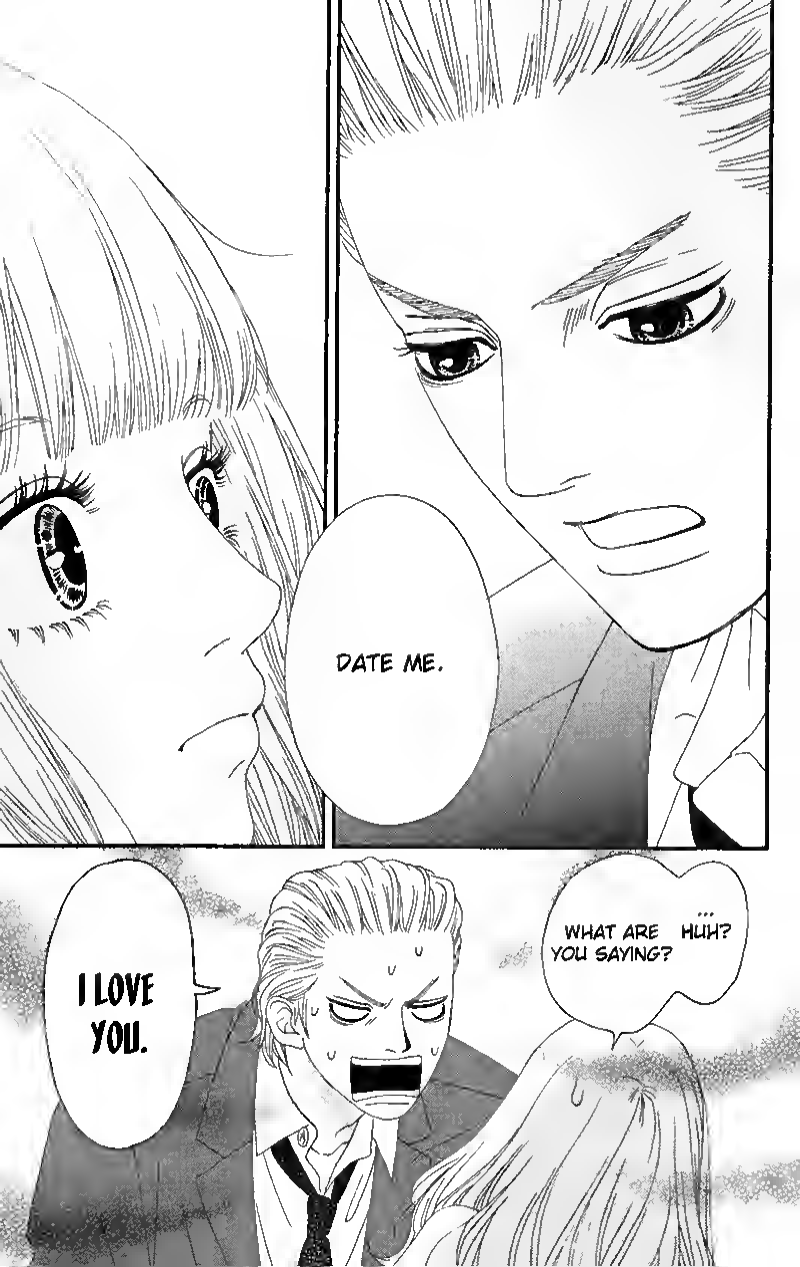
WHAT— KIKUKAWA-SENPAI IS ABSENT?
Hair＊Make-up
SHE HAD SOME KIND OF AUDITION.
HEY, THIS IS KIKUKAWA-SENPAI, RIGHT?
WOAH! AMAZING!
HER PICTURE IS HUGE!
BUT THE NAME IS DIFFERENT!
AH, IT'S HER STAGE NAME.
HUH? THAT IS HER STAGE NAME?
Hair＊Make-up
WINTER PARTY MAKE-UP
EASY CUT

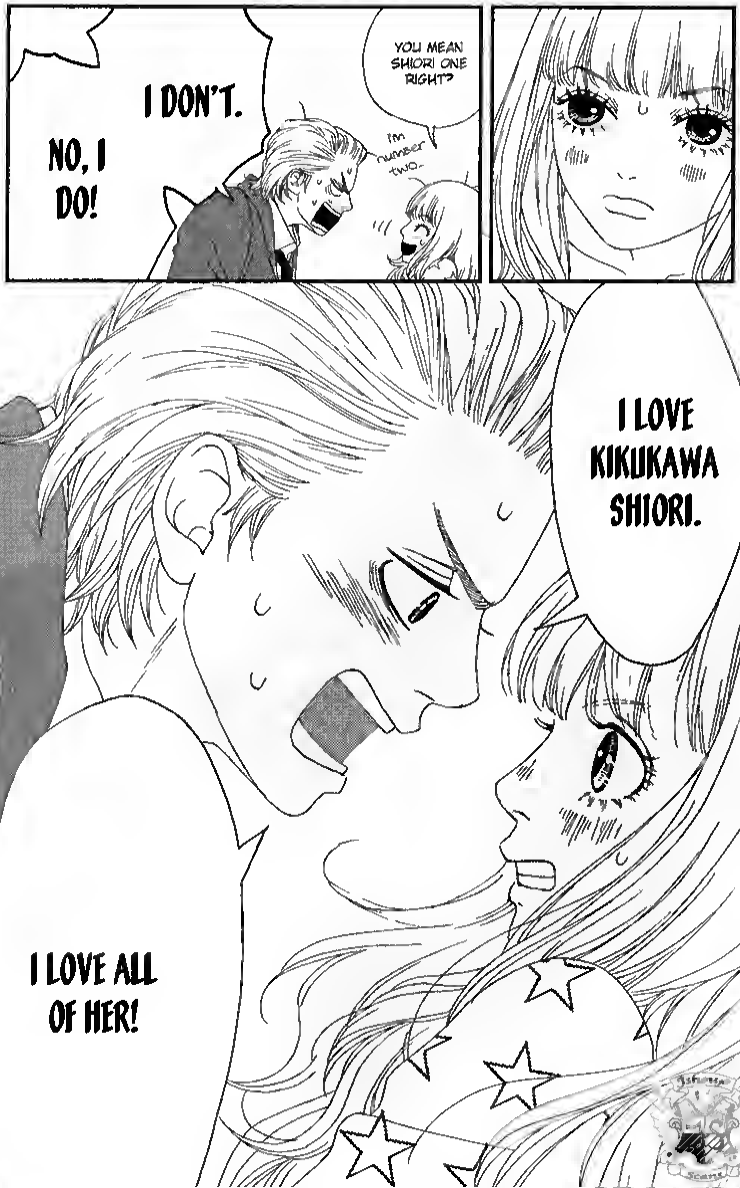
SHIORI-SAN IS WAITING FOR YOU IN YOUR ROOM.
FATHER, I BROUGHT YOU A BOTTLE OF OOLONG TEA.
Shiratsuki Liquor Store
Liquor Store
OH KAI, YOU'RE BACK.
WAH—
SO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, EROTIC PHOTO STUDIO
OR RATHER, DON'T JUST LET HER IN MY ROOM LIKE THAT, IDIOT!
DAMMIT! AT TIMES LIKE THESE, YOU SHOULD MAIL ME, BALD OLD COOT!
ASH! ASH! ASH!
SLIDE
DON'T COME OVER SO SUDDENLY ...
HORNY OL RECEPTION HELL
DOKIDOKI SAILOR COSPLAY. THIS IS DEFINITELY HIS SECRET STASH!

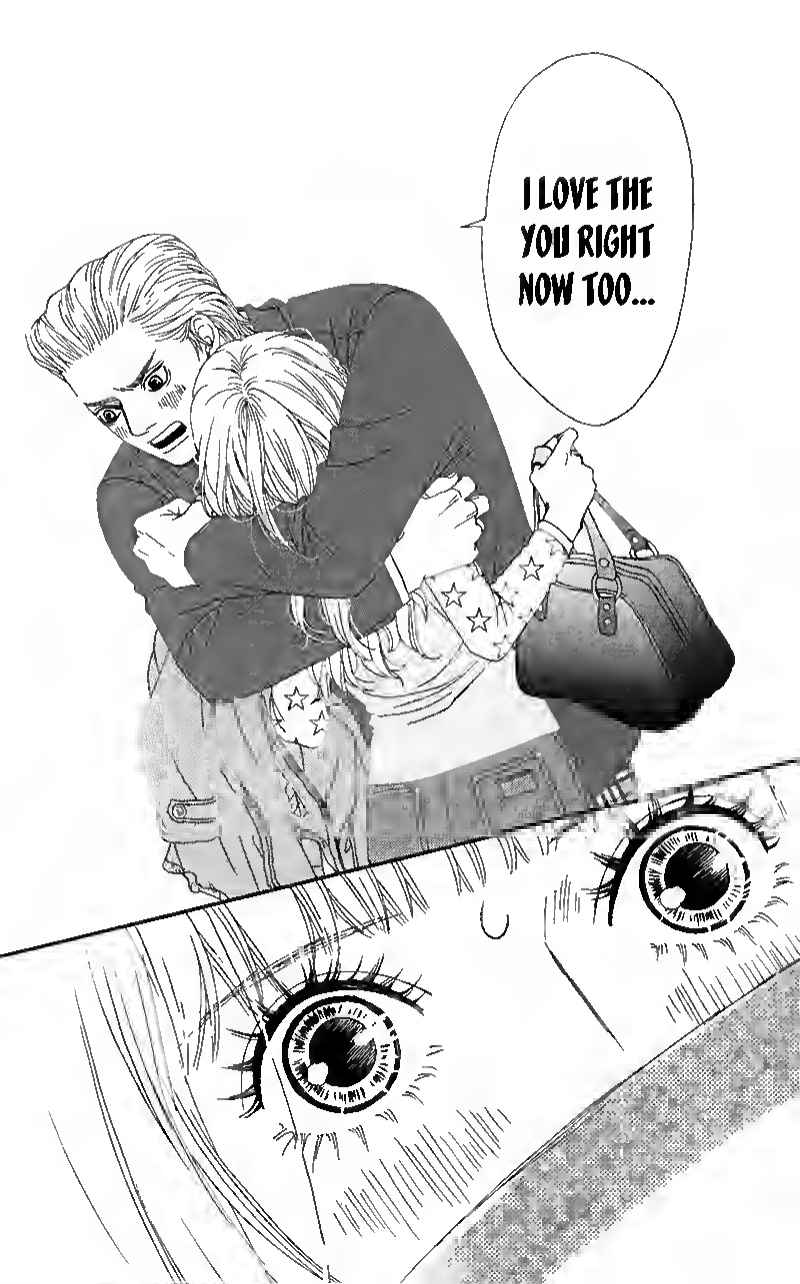

NO WAY!
BY THE WAY, CAN I HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH YOU?
I didn't notice them
WERE THESE HERE WHEN I VISITED BEFORE?
SNATCH!
THINK OF YOU AS MY BEST FRIEND.
I KNOW YOU'RE WITH ME BECAUSE OF YOUR "SHIORI-SENPAI" BUT
AT SCHOOL, IT ACTUALLY FELT REASSURING TO ME.
BOW
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR LYING.
SO I CAME TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN.


ALSO,
I WANT YOU TO STOP WAITING FOR "SHIORI-SENPAI".
... WELL THEN,
I'M OFF.

Stop
HUH? WHAT?!
ARE YOU PISSED AT ME?
NO.


DATE ME.
I LOVE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HUH?
...


I DON'T.
NO, I DO!
YOU MEAN SHIORI ONE RIGHT?
I'm number two.
I LOVE KIKUKAWA SHIORI.
I LOVE ALL OF HER!


I LOVE THE YOU RIGHT NOW TOO...

しっくすは
しっくすは
しっくすと
しっくすと

Six Half

by Rikako Iketani

Volume 5 Chapter 20

Kuu
Niki
Banana Bread
Vally
Vally
Monmedel

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We hope you enjoyed this chapter
If you like this manga, please support the mangaka
by buying the original copy
- from fans to fans.

Next Week

A usual day at Jahrayle's palace.
I WANT MORE MANGA.
WHY ARE YOU TAKING SO LONG?
SHUT UP AND WAIT.
IT'S A MECHANIC!
GRAB
PEEL
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WHY DON'T THEY HELP US? BY JOINING US OR GETTING OTHERS TO?
JSHOULD SCANS NEEDS YOU!
WE NEED STAFF!
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Six Half
by Rikako Iketani
Volume 5 Chapter 21
Kuu
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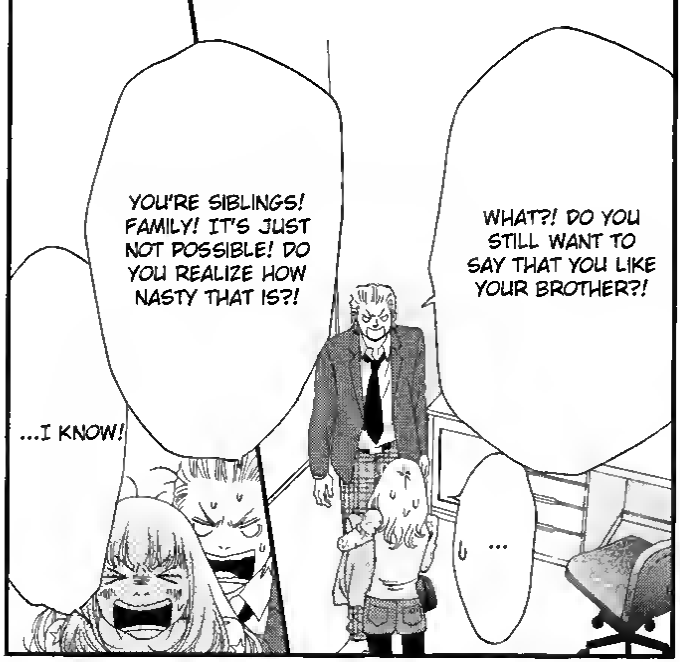
シックス ハーフ

SIX HALF

CHAPTER 21

'I LOVE THE YOU
RIGHT NOW TOO.'

LET GO OF ME!
PUSH
... I CAN'T DATE YOU.
YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
AND I...


YOU'RE SIBLINGS! FAMILY! IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! DO YOU REALIZE HOW NASTY THAT IS?!
WHAT?! DO YOU STILL WANT TO SAY THAT YOU LIKE YOUR BROTHER?!
...I KNOW!
...

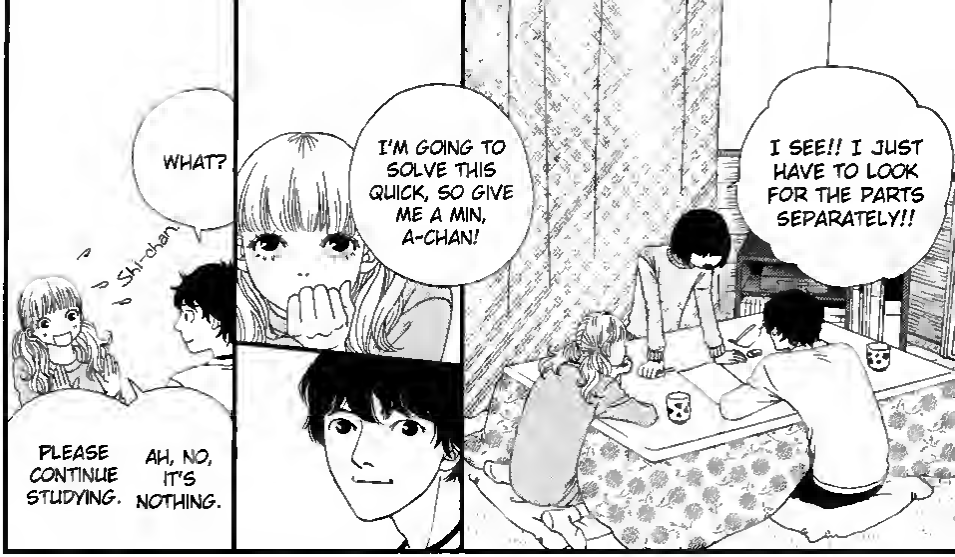
Since I re-called that scene in my head,

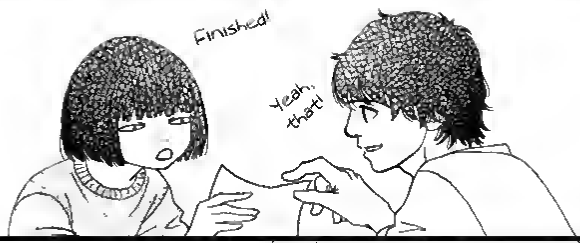
...I KNOW IT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND...
I'M TRYING REALLY HARD TO ACCEPT REALITY...
And nothing can change that.
I know that we are siblings.

MMM, WON'T YOU GO OUT WITH ME AFTER ALL?
WHY SHOULD I?
IT'LL DISTRACT YOU.
YOU GOING TO BE HAPPY GOING OUT WITH ME LIKE THAT?
ARE...
I WILL BE.
AND, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT OTHER GUYS HITTING ON YOU.
I will also have the right to beat them up if they do
HUH~
You don't have that right!
I'm against violence.

What...
SO, YOU CAN JUST FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!!

WELL, IF YOU DIVIDE THE SHAPE BY THIS LINE THEN... ?


WHAT?
Shi-chan
I'M GOING TO SOLVE THIS QUICK, SO GIVE ME A MIN, A-CHAN!
I SEE!! I JUST HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE PARTS SEPARATELY!!
PLEASE CONTINUE STUDYING.
AH, NO, IT'S NOTHING.



That time when A-chan hugged me,

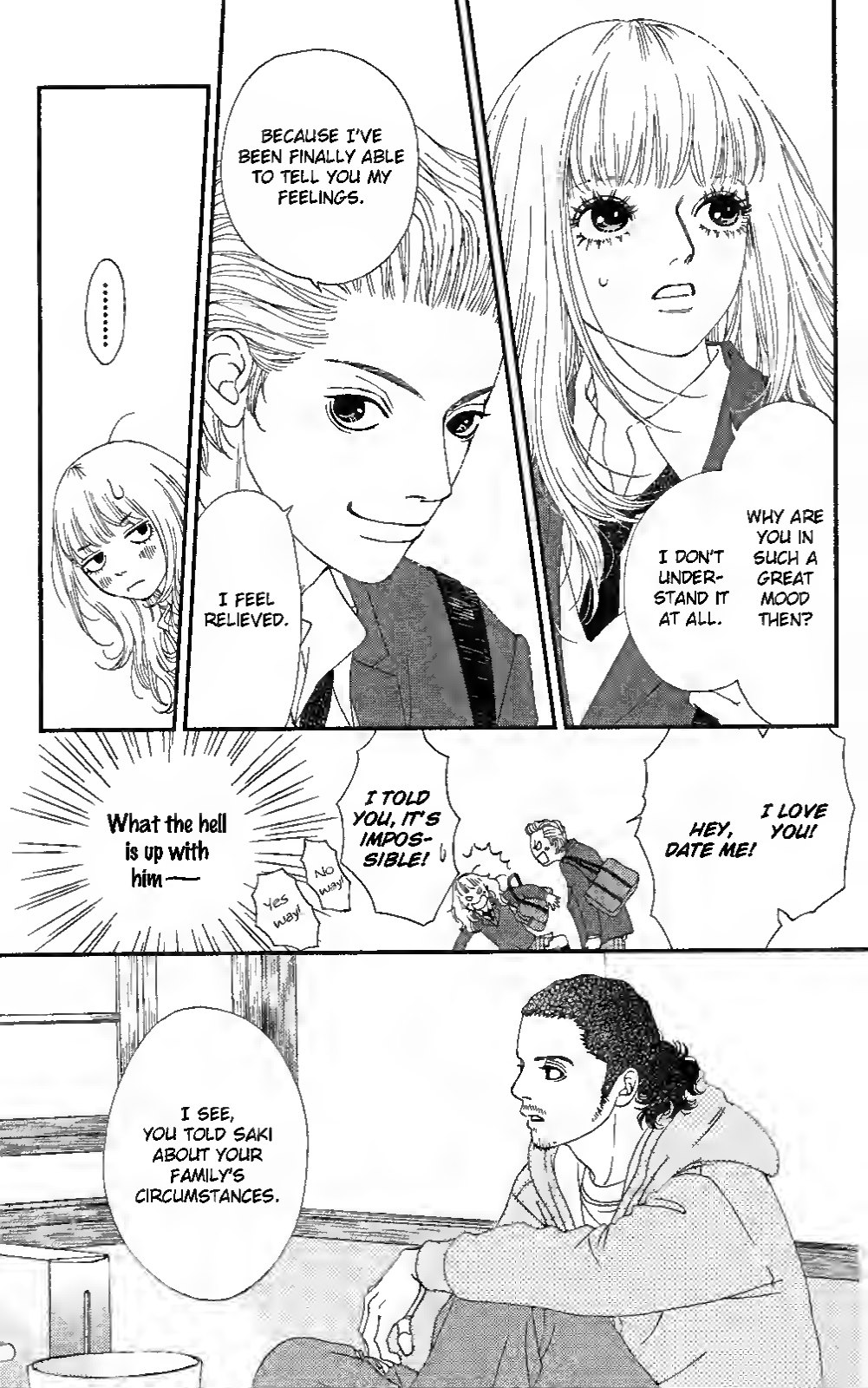
it felt very warm and tender. I felt a sense of security.

It made me want to

stay close and depend on him forever.

But when Kai hugged me,
it was constricting (he used too much strenght) and it was painful (he was choking me).
It was a bit scary...
BA-THUMP
WQAH...
AH, SORRY.
IT'S NOTH-ING.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT-?
EVEN IF HE TELLS ME HE LOVES ME (NUMBER 2), TOO...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

WHY ARE YOU GRINNING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
AHH, BUT ISN'T IT A REFRESHING MORNING?!
The sky is so blue!!
EHEHEHE.
.....
I JUST WANT TO CHECK, BUT...
I DID TELL YOU YESTERDAY THAT I'M NOT GOING TO GO OUT WITH YOU, RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
BUT, YEAH, YOU DID.
I HAVEN'T!

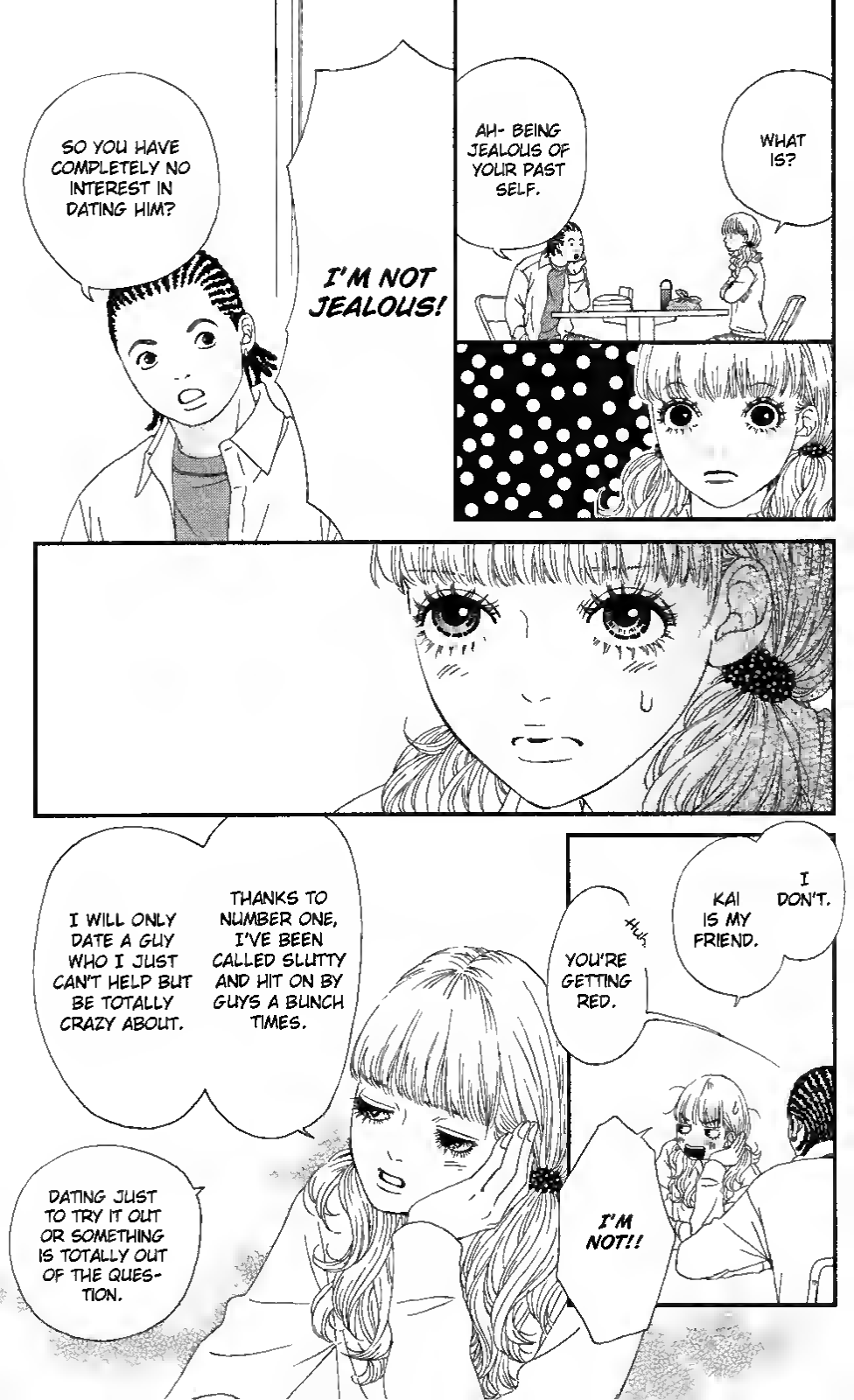

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN FINALLY ABLE TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS.
.....
I FEEL RELIEVED.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND IT AT ALL.
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A GREAT MOOD THEN?
What the hell is up with him——
I TOLD YOU, IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
No way!
Yes way!
HEY, DATE ME!
I LOVE YOU!
I SEE, YOU TOLD SAKI ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

YEAH.
SHE WAS FINE WITH IT, RIGHT?
WHAT'S UP?

WHEN SAKI-CHAN LISTENED TO MY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE CRIED. WATCHING HER,
I FELT A LITTLE GUILTY WHEN I REALIZED THAT
I DIDN'T TRUST HER. IT WAS INEXCUSABLE.
AH...
I WONDER WHY I'VE BEEN SO SCARED TO TELL SAKI-CHAN THE TRUTH.

レ は
レンゲの レ～
三 は
ミッチャク
密着♥の
三 ～
YOU'RE SAYING DEEP STUFF AGAIN...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. JUST BE LIKE "GREAT". ♥
AH YEAH, SHIORI APPEARED IN ANOTHER MAGAZINE.
SHOW ME!
Ah, it's the one over there
SHE'S VERY CUTE, HUH?
I WATCHED THE PHOTO SHOOT BUT SHE SEEMED SO DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
冬のパ
カワイイ
HEY, AKIO, HAVE YOU...

Second conference room
UGH~
YUSUKE-KUN, DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!
NO, NO, HE'S SERIOUS!
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HE'S DOING IT TO TEASE ME.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I REJECT HIM HE KEEPS SAYING 'LET'S DATE, JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT'. OR "DO YOU FEEL LIKE DATING ME EVEN A LITTLE BIT NOW?' EVERY DAY...
...THAT REMINDS ME, DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT HE CONFESSED TO NUMBER 1 SEVERAL TIMES AND THEN THEY FINALLY STARTED DATING OR SOMETHING.
IT KINDA PISSES ME OFF.
THAT'S INTERESTING.

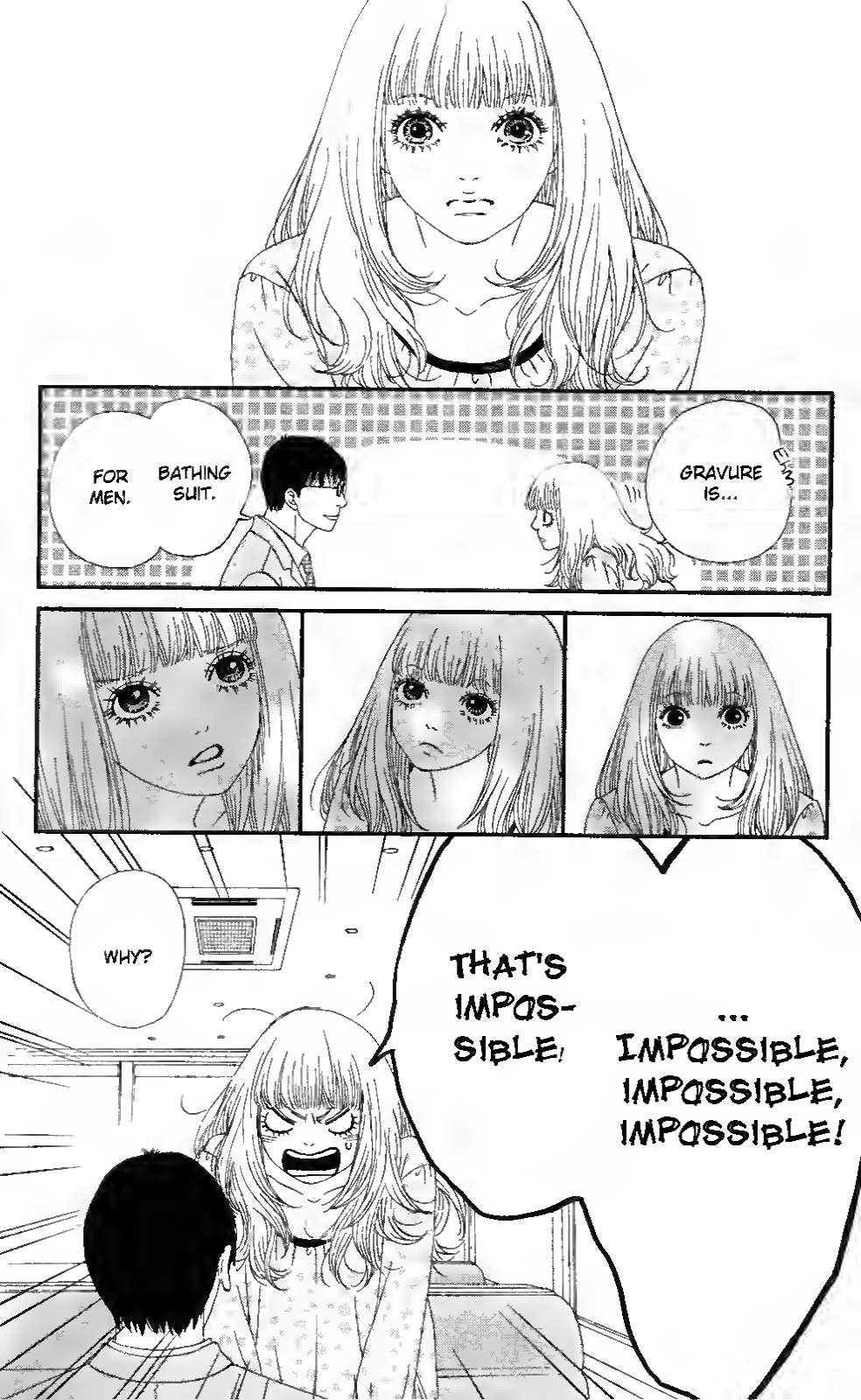

SO YOU HAVE COMPLETELY NO INTEREST IN DATING HIM?
I'M NOT JEALOUS!
AH- BEING JEALOUS OF YOUR PAST SELF.
WHAT IS?
I DON'T.
KAI IS MY FRIEND.
HUH?
YOU'RE GETTING RED.
I'M NOT!!
THANKS TO NUMBER ONE, I'VE BEEN CALLED SLUTTY AND HIT ON BY GUYS A BUNCH TIMES.
I WILL ONLY DATE A GUY WHO I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT BE TOTALLY CRAZY ABOUT.
DATING JUST TO TRY IT OUT OR SOMETHING IS TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUES-TION.

KAI IS A GOOD GUY SO
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING HALF-HEARTEDLY WITH HIM.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE TELLS ME IT'S FINE...
THAT REMINDS ME, KAI'S LATE, HUH?!
THE SHOP'S CROWDED!
CHIKA-SEMPAI.
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT.
LET'S GO, UCCHI.

ABOUT THAT PROMISE!
I'LL BREAK UP WITH YOU SO PROMISE ME,
THAT YOU DEFINITELY WON'T DATE THE CURRENT SHIORI.
I'M SORRY,
PLEASE RELEASE ME FROM IT.
LET'S GO, UCCHI.
AH, NO WAY...

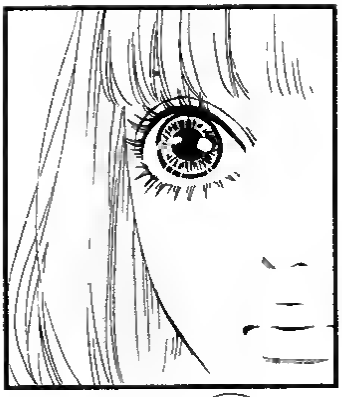
FLASH!
FLASH
OPEN UP YOUR HANDS A BIT MORE.
MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE SURPRISED.
OKAY!
HOW WAS THE PHOTO SHOOT, AYUMU-CHAN?
IT WAS FUN.
BUT I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT IT YET.
BEING A MODEL FOR RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS IN THE SMALL REFERRAL CORNER OF AN INFORMATIONAL MAGAZINE...
IT WAS JUST A PITIFUL JOB.
...IS IT OKAY TO SAY SUCH A THING?
ISN'T A SUPER LOW-GRADE EMPLOYEE LIKE ME SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY WITH ANY JOB SHE CAN GET?

'YOUTH' IS YOUR STRONGEST WEAPON.
IN THIS INDUSTRY,
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
EVERYONE HAS IT AT FIRST. AND EVERYONE DEFINITELY LOSES IT.
IF YOU DON'T SELL BEFORE A CERTAIN POINT IN TIME, WHEN YOU TURN 20 AND YOU'RE REACHING THE END OF YOUR YOUTH, YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SELL YOURSELF CHEAPLY.
Tw.
Twenty?
FOR REAL ...?
SO EVERYONE USES THIS WEAPON AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DURING THE SHORT TIME THAT IT'S AVAILABLE.
BECAUSE THE WORK YOU CAN DO DURING A LIMITED TIME IS ALSO LIMITED.
The frequency as well as the quality
HOWEVER, IF YOU CAN GET RECOGNITION FROM SOCIETY DURING THAT PERIOD, YOUR TIME WILL GET EXTENDED PAST TWENTY.
AHH... SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?...
WON'T YOU DO GRAVURE WORK?


FOR MEN.
BATHING SUIT.
GRAVURE IS...
E-F-G
WHY?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
...IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE!

I THINK YOU ARE.
I'M PROBABLY NOT SUITED FOR THAT JOB...
I- I DON'T HAVE SEX APPEAL.

I MEAN, WHO WOULD BE HAPPY LOOKING AT ME WEARING A BATHING SUIT—...
'WHY?'...
BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING, I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE.

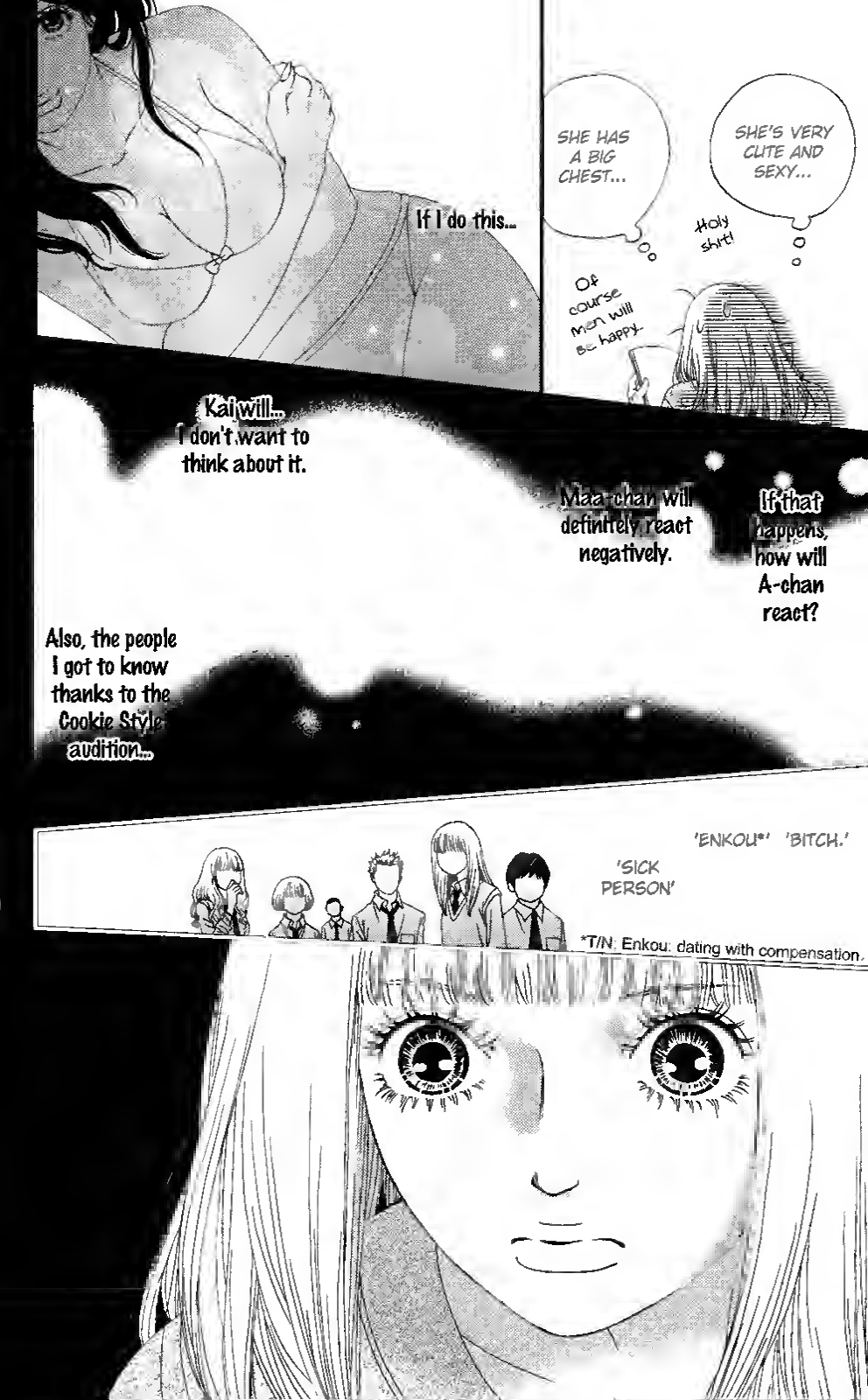


ARE YOU PERHAPS LOOKING DOWN ON GRAVURE WORK?
... AH... BUT...

I THINK YOUR BODY SHAPE AND ATMOSPHERE WILL WORK BETTER FOR GRAVURE THAN FOR A FASHION MAGAZINE.

DID YOU ENTER THIS BUSINESS BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO LOOK COOL AND BE PAMPERED?
ONII-CHAN, ARE YOU UP?
I'M GOING TO TURN OFF THE LIGHT IN THE LIVING ROOM.

HE FELL ASLEEP
WHILE DRINKING BEER AND READING A BOOK...
THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE YOUNG STEP COVER GRAVURE..
©KIURA KAYA


If I do this...
SHE HAS A BIG CHEST...
SHE'S VERY CUTE AND SEXY...
Holy shit!
Of course men will be happy.
Kai will... I don't want to think about it.
Mata-chan will definitely react negatively.
If that happens, how will A-chan react?
Also, the people I got to know thanks to the Cookie Style audition...
'ENKOU*' 'BITCH.'
'SICK PERSON'
*T/N: Enkou: dating with compensation.

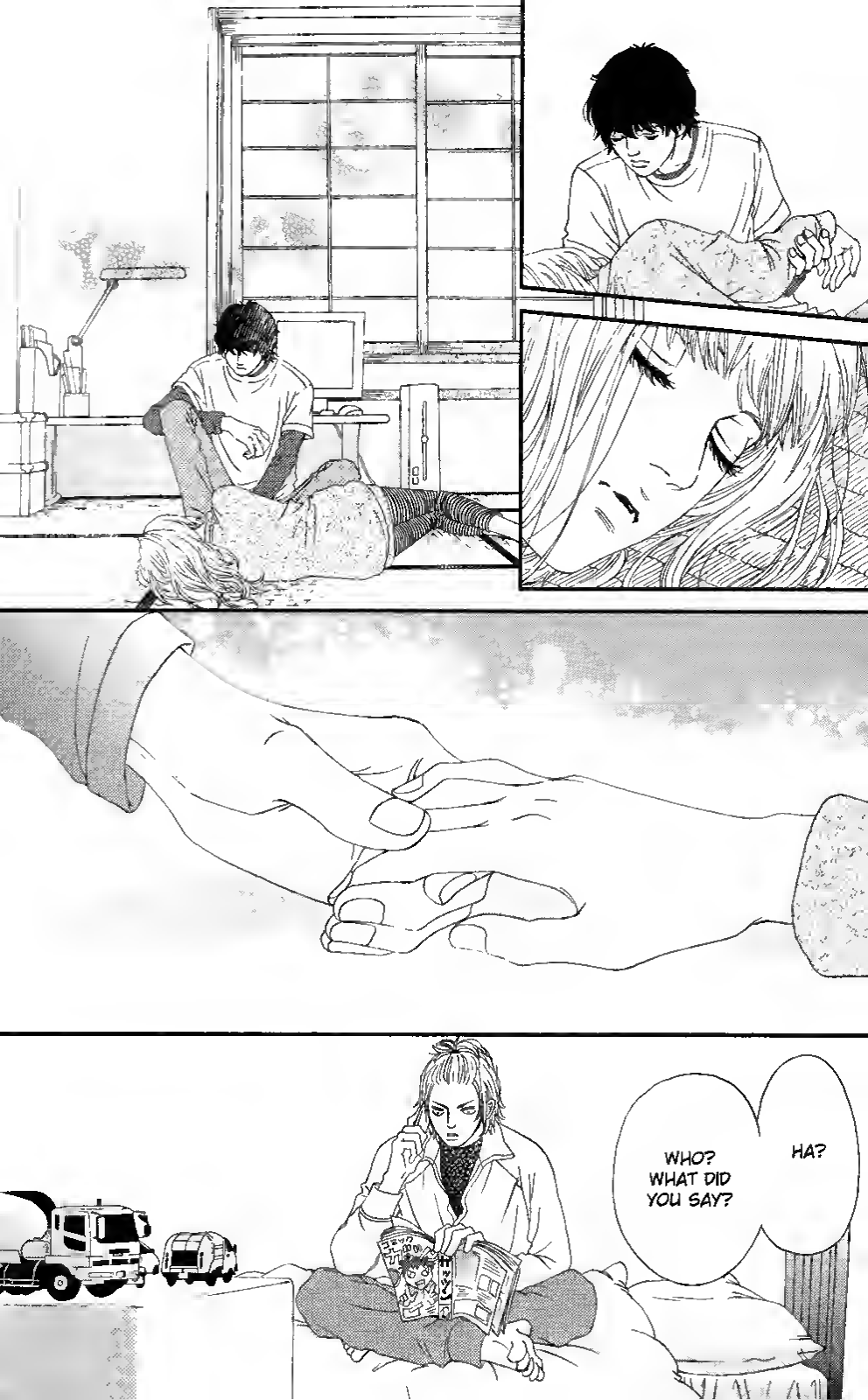
HE...
HEHE...
...MHE.
BA-THUMP
YOUNG
Young Step
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IN ANY CASE, HE SEEMS TO BE DREAMING ABOUT SOMETHING HILARIOUS...

The 'love' I have for A-chan...
Losing my memories, feeling all alone,
Only A-chan supported me.
Is there because there weren't any other people to depend on...
Only A-chan told me he loved me
So maybe I thought that I loved him...
I want to be by his side.
Maybe it's different from romantic love...
Maybe it's a normal thing since we're family...
When I'm with A-chan, I feel comfortable.

SAKI-CHA...
...MM.
Hug

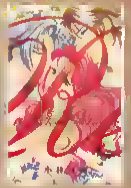
HEY, AKIO,
HAVE YOU...

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF SHIORI AS A WOMAN?
OF COURSE NOT.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT BLOOD-RELATED, SHII-CHAN IS MY SISTER.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DAI-CHAN?


HA?
WHO? WHAT DID YOU SAY?

You are Chika's ex-boyfriend Kai, aren't ya?!
I'm Shimizu and I'm currently dating Chika.
I have something to say to you so I want to meet up with ya.
I don't mind if you bring your friends along with ya.
... HMPH.
SO?
.....

WANTED



LEMON JO SCANS IS IN NEED OF TEAM MEMBERS FOR THESE MANGA
IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

shoujo hearts
avelys
raws & typeset
drjs
translations
SickeningIySweet
cleaning
j'aime
proofreading
chapter
SIX HALF
22

シックスハーフ

SIX HALF

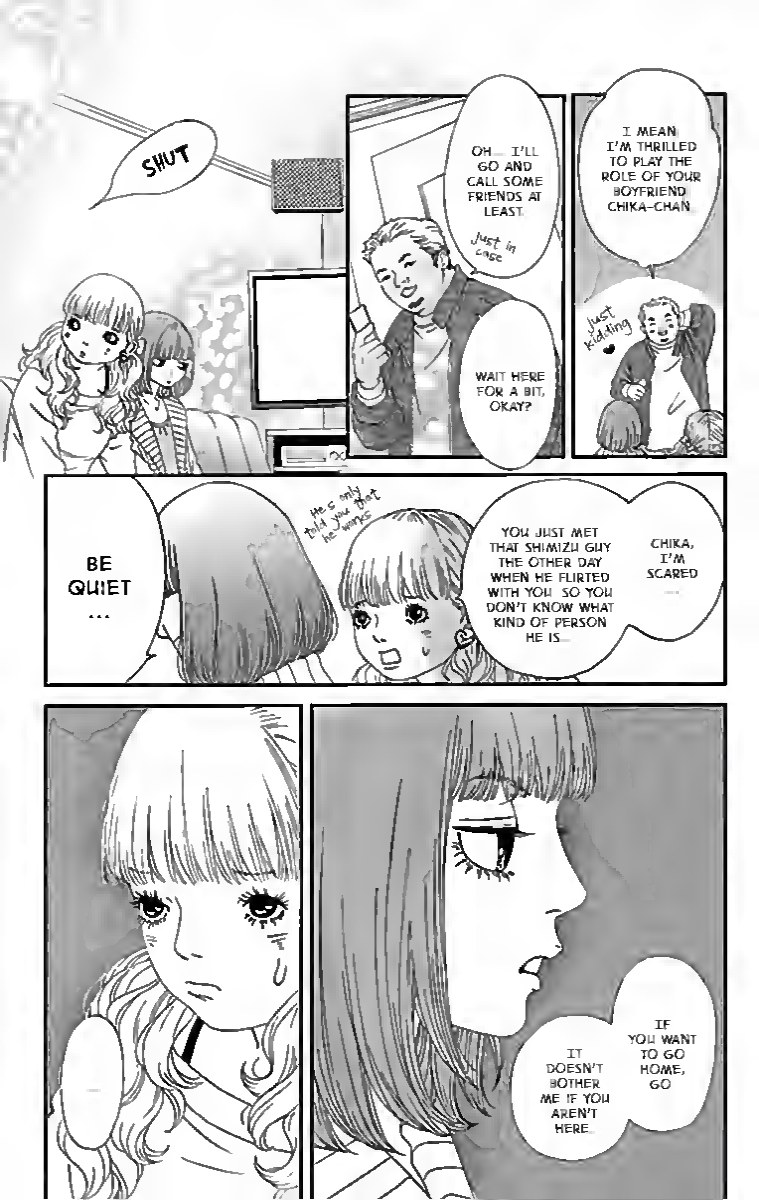
CHAPTER 22

SHIORI -SENPAI!
HUH ? KAI! WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
I PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR NEGI HIGH SCHOOL.
FOR REAL ? THAT'S AMAZING! YOU SAID THAT IT WAS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?
I WORKED REALLLY HARD!

AN UNDER-CLASSMAN FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
Hmmm
WHO'S THAT?
HE'S ALREADY CONFESSED TO ME SO MANY TIMES
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN TELLING ME THAT HE LIKES ME
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD CHASE ME ALL THE WAY TO HIGH SCHOOL...
I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE AGAIN FROM NOW!!
HMM...
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING A DUMB GUY FOR A BOYFRIEND.
...ISN'T HE PRETTY COOL?
I GUESS, HE'S GOOD LOOKING, BUT
THAT HAIR JUST DOESN'T CUT IT NOWADAYS.

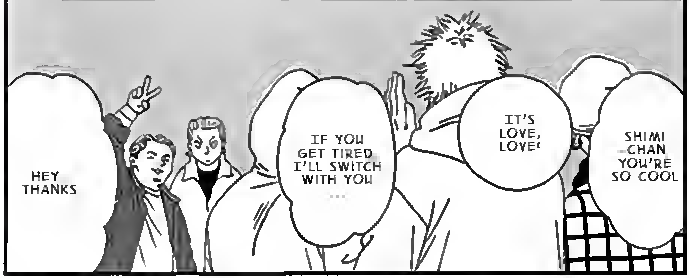
WHAT, CHIKA?
ARE YOU INTERES-TED IN KAI, PERHAPS?
Shion was always looking down on people like that
...I DON'T MIND IF YOU BRING A FRIEND.
GASP
YEAH.
THEN COME OVER RIGHT AWAY.
THE PLACE IS...
WHISPER
CHIKA.
CHIKA!

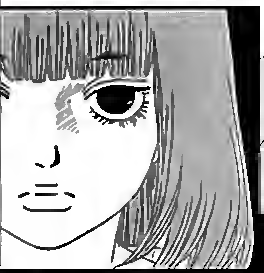
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT KAI GUY WILL COME SO...
HEY, LET'S STOP DOING THIS...
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF KAI-KUN GETS REALLY HURT?
IT'LL BECOME A POLICE MATTER OR SOMETHING...
CHIKA-CHAN
DON'T MAKE SUCH AN ANXIOUS FACE, OKAY? I'LL STRAIGHTEN HIM UP SO THAT GUY WON'T GET CLOSE TO YOU EVER AGAIN.
I'M SORRY FOR INCONVENIENCING YOU, SHIMIZU-KUN...
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY
...
WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE, WE'RE IN IT TOGETHER...


SHUT
OH... I'LL GO AND CALL SOME FRIENDS AT LEAST.
Just in case
WAIT HERE FOR A BIT, OKAY?
I MEAN I'M THRILLED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF YOUR BOYFRIEND CHIKA-CHAN
Just kidding
BE QUIET ...
He's only told you that he wants
YOU JUST MET THAT SHIMIZU GUY THE OTHER DAY WHEN HE FLIRTED WITH YOU. SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS...
CHIKA, I'M SCARED ...
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME IF YOU AREN'T HERE...
IF YOU WANT TO GO HOME, GO

YEAH
I DON'T HAVE A BUNCH OF FRIENDS LIKE YOU
YOU REALLY CAME ALONE HUH?
MY FAMILY RUNS A TOFU SHOP SO MORNINGS ARE EARLY FOR ME
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
AH?

HUH?
DIDN'T YOU VIDEOTAPE HER OR SOMETHING WHEN YOU WERE GOING OUT?
YOU'RE A STALKER WHO'S ALWAYS PERSISTENTLY FOLLOWING ANOTHER GUY'S WOMAN AROUND
BASTARD! STOP MESSING AROUND!
FLINCH
whistle
STOP BEING QUIET AND TRY MAKING AN EXCUSE.





Even though Shiori didn't like Kai-kun at all

Even after I told him that Shiori was deceiving him

Since he's always chasing Shiori around

It's Kai-kun's fault

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO TEACH YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING WEIRD TOWARDS HER AGAIN

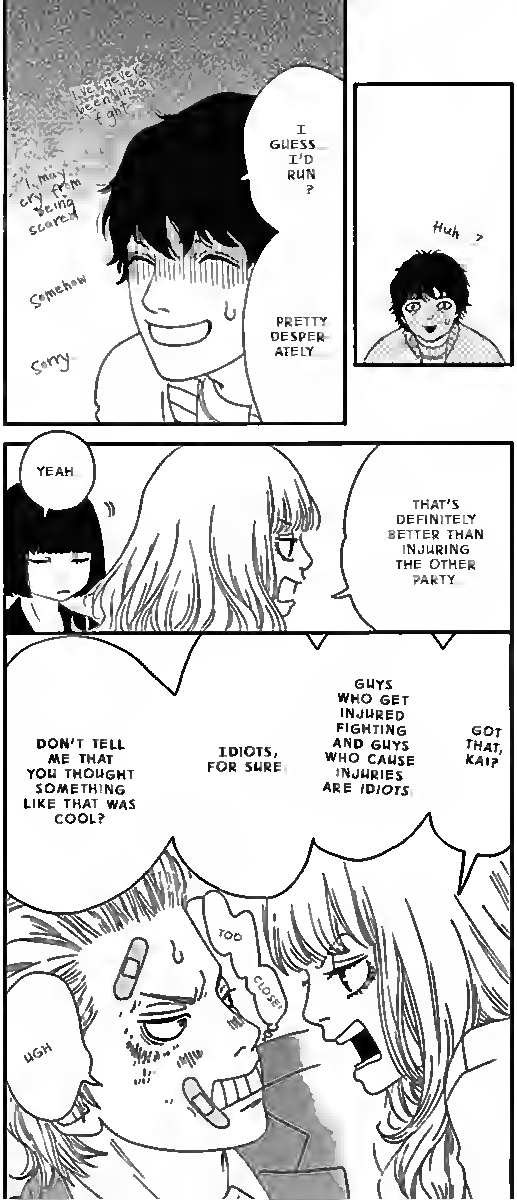
...I SEE

SORRY, BUT COMBAT SPORTS ARE A CINCH FOR ME, SO GET READY

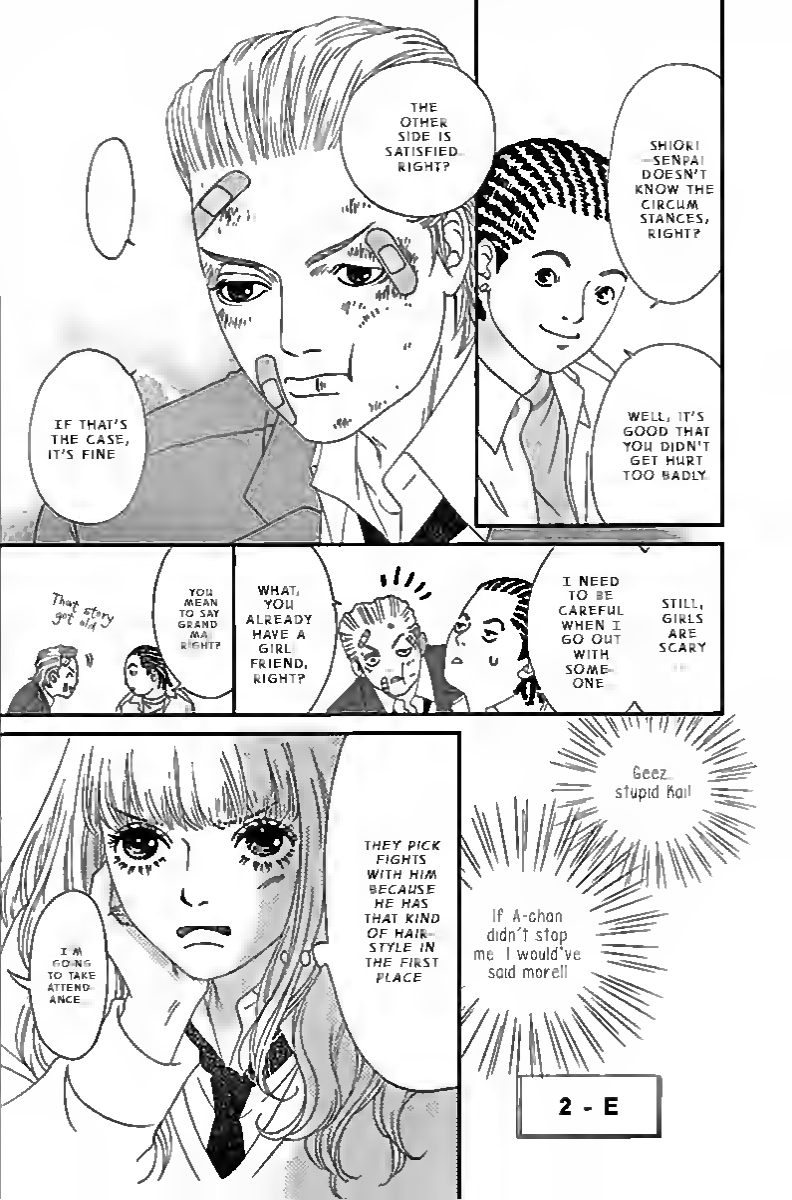
Yesterday
I hear voices talking in the living room
A-CHAN
Before I realized it, I was sleeping in A-chan's room alone.

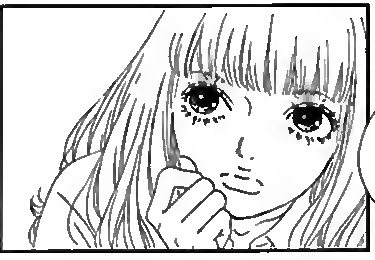
A-chan was talking on the phone on the balcony
NO
I DIDN'T CALL FOR ANY REASON
I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, MISUKI-CHAN
HA HA, LIKE THAT
YEAH, WHAT DID YOU DO?
OH! SHI-CHAN HAVE YOU EATEN YET?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, KAI-KUN WILL BE HERE, YOU KNOW?
Well, that's all it was
DING DONG
OPEN
I'm drinking coffee! yeee
SORRY COME INSIDE
SHI-CHAN STILL...
SEE?!
KAI-KUN! WHAT HAPPENED!?

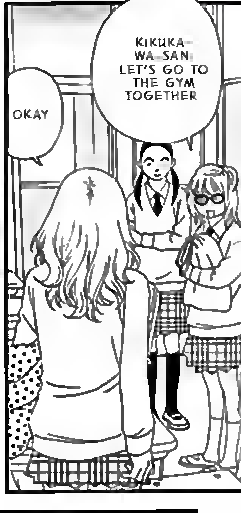
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, AN IDIOT!
FIGHTING IS FOR IDIOTS!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, A-CHAN?
I'm fine. I didn't break any bones.
Are you okay?
You're going to school with those injuries?
IF YOU SUDDENLY GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING STRANGE...
HM?
Kai-kun, have some coffee.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, RIGHT? WHEN I WAS WALKING DOWN THE ROAD THE OTHER GUY PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME ALL ON HIS OWN
THAT'S SCARY
A STRANGER DELIBERATELY DID THIS?

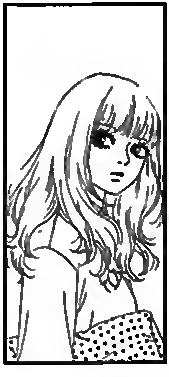

I've never been in a fight...
I may cry from being scared
Somehow
Sorry
I GUESS I'D RUN ?
PRETTY DESPERATELY
Huh ?
YEAH
THAT'S DEFINITELY BETTER THAN INJURING THE OTHER PARTY
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS COOL?
IDIOTS, FOR SURE
GUYS WHO GET INJURED FIGHTING AND GUYS WHO CAUSE INJURIES ARE IDIOTS
GOT THAT, KAI?
TOO CLOSE!
UGH

ON THE WHOLE, I REALLY DESPISE GUYS WHO USE VIOLENCE...
SHI CHAN
OKAY?
HE GETS IT ALREADY.
EVEN MAHO-CHAN WENT ALONG WITH IT
THAT SHIOKI SHE WAS TOO HARSH...
AH... GEEZ, WHAT IS THIS...?
HA HA HA
SHUT UP
MAKE-OVER*?
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE KAI?
T/N LITERALLY, "RENEWAL?"


SHIOKI-SENPAI DOESN'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES, RIGHT?
THE OTHER SIDE IS SATISFIED, RIGHT?
WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU DIDN'T GET HURT TOO BADLY
IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT'S FINE
I NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN I GO OUT WITH SOMEONE
STILL, GIRLS ARE SCARY
WHAT, YOU ALREADY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN TO SAY GRANDMA, RIGHT?
That story got old
THEY PICK FIGHTS WITH HIM BECAUSE HE HAS THAT KIND OF HAIRSTYLE IN THE FIRST PLACE
I'M GOING TO TAKE ATTENDANCE
Geez... stupid Kai!
If A-chan didn't stop me, I would've said more!!
2 - E







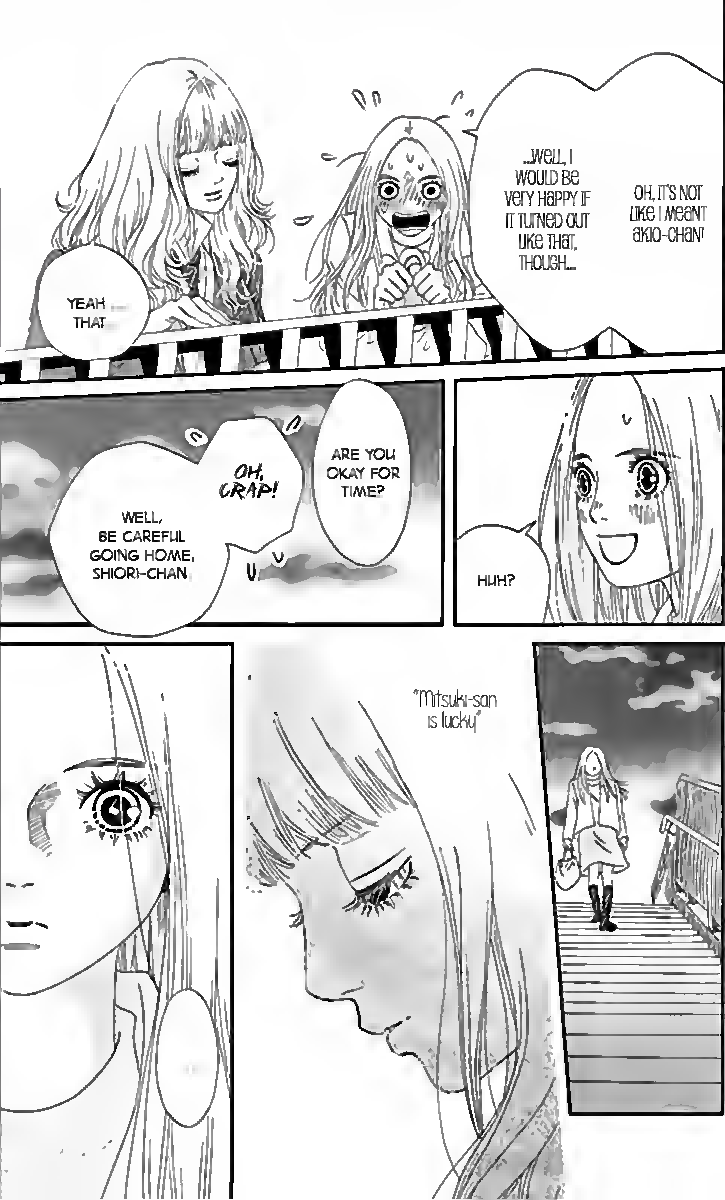
FROM: CHIKA	TO: CHIKA	FROM: CHIKA	TO: CHIKA
It's fine. Don't come	Are you okay? I'll stop by on my way home	**Not really. It's just a cold.**	What's wrong? It's lonely when you don't come to school. Are you depressed about what happened yesterday?

Yokota
HUH? THIS GUY'S LOOKS ARE REALLY DECEIVING
HE GOT TOTALLY TRASHED BY SHIMI-CHAN...
ARE YOU ONLY STRONG AGAINST GIRLS OR WHAT?

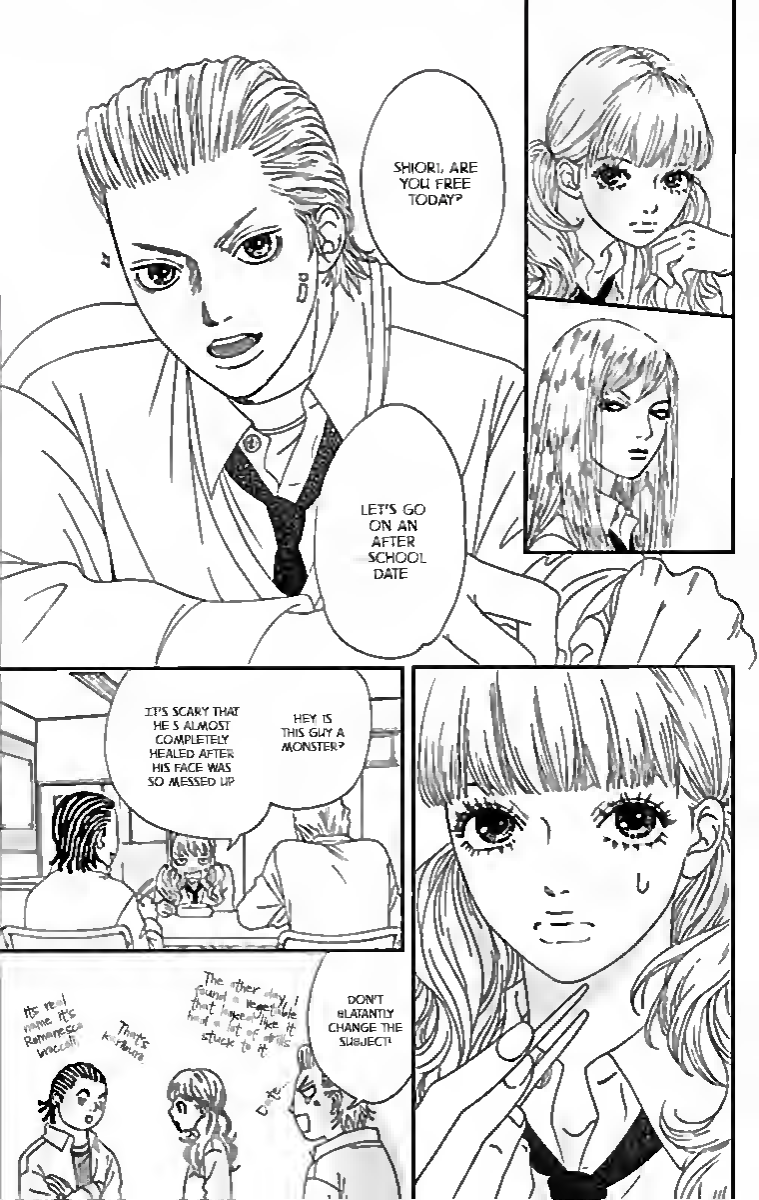
What am I doing?
How did I become like this?
I'm so lame
I ended up saying, "I want to do work that is separate from my real life"
and I'm mostly worried about what the people close to me will think
Magazines
YOUR SMILE
I think your body and appearance are better suited for a grovure* magazine over a fashion one
*T/N: I DON'T THINK THERE'S AN EQUIVALENT WORD FOR GRAVURE (PIN-UP/A-SOMEWHAT SIMILAR, BUT NOT USED MUCH NOWADAYS.)

It's not a big deal
But it feels like pebbles are accumulating in my chest one by one
when something like that happens...
SHIORI -CHAN.
OH...
I'M GOING TO A DRINKING PARTY IN SAKADAI WITH SOME CO-WORKERS RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU SHOPPING, SHIORI -CHAN?
WELL, I'M JUST GOOFING OFF A BIT...
THERE ARE NO BOOKSTORES NEAR THE HOUSE AND ONEGI IS FULL OF NEGI HIGH STUDENTS, SO IF I DON'T COME TO SAKADAI, I CAN'T BROWSE THE GRAVURE MAGAZINES

"Shi-chan and I aren't related by blood"
WHAT IS IT?
WELL, I WAS THINKING THAT YOU'RE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
YOU WILL SURELY BE POPULAR IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS
AND THEN YOU'LL BECOME RICH AND LIVE IN A VERY HIGH CLASS APARTMENT IN TOKYO
YOU LIKE THAT SORT OF THING, MITSUKI-SAN?
ME?
I'M NOT SUITED FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY IF I CAN LIVE AN ORDINARY LIFE AND HAVE A REGULAR FAMILY


...WELL, I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF IT TURNED OUT LIKE THAT, THOUGH...
OH, IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT AKIO-CHAN!
YEAH — THAT
ARE YOU OKAY FOR TIME?
OH, CRAP!
WELL, BE CAREFUL GOING HOME, SHIORI-CHAN
HUH?
"Mitsuki-san is lucky."

LICCHI
CHIKA IS ABSENT AGAIN TODAY HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO CHIKA?
...SHE SAID SHE HAS A COLD.
A COLD? ISN'T THAT KIND OF LONG? IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK.
DO YOU WANT TO EAT LUNCH TOGETHER?
shake
shake
IT'S FINE.
THANKS, OHNO


SHIORI, ARE YOU FREE TODAY?
LET'S GO ON AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE
IT'S SCARY THAT HE'S ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED AFTER HIS FACE WAS SO MESSED UP
HEY IS THIS GUY A MONSTER?
DON'T BLATANTLY CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
The other day I found that I had a lot of girls stuck to it
It's real name it's Rannesse bracelet
That's kinda...
Eh?

...UCCHI-CHAN, WAIT!
It's just for a little bit
Get away!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AS IF I WOULD INADVERTENTLY GO ON A DATE WITH HIM...
HE WOULD JUST START THINKING THAT WE WERE GOING OUT.
SHIORI...
MOLESTER!? PERVERT!?
UCCHI, WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
YOU'RE WRONG... WAIT...
SENPAI?
APPEARS
What are you doing?
YUUSUKE-KUN! YOU'VE GOT PERFECT TIMING!

HUH? THAT GUY IS...
...AFTER THAT, EVEN THOUGH I TRIED TO CONTACT CHIKA-CHAN, I CAN'T GET THROUGH BY PHONE OR EMAIL
I WAS WORRIED THAT KAI MIGHT HAVE DONE SOMETHING AGAIN SO I JUST CAME TO THE SCHOOL TO CHECK
SHOCK
WELL, YOU KNOW...
HUH..? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THAT MEANS SHE BLOCKED HIM, RIGHT?
Yeah
THAT GIRL PROBABLY WAS IRRITATED WITH KAI AND JUST WANTED YOU TO BEAT HIM UP
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU, BUT YOU WERE USED BY CHIKA-SENPAI
HEY, HEY
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CHIKA HAS ALWAYS LIKED IS KAI-KUN, SO DON'T COME NEAR CHIKA ANYMORE
SHE DEFINITELY WON'T LIKE YOU!
CHI... CHIKA ISN'T GOING OUT WITH YOU

SO WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN'T FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION AT ALL
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE
TODAY SHIMIZU-KUN CAME TO OUR SCHOOL.
I SEE
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S A BAD PERSON
HE SAID THAT HE'S GLAD THAT YOU'RE OKAY AND LEFT
He looked really dejected though
YOU KNOW, KAI-KUN WENT TO GET BEATEN UP THAT TIME
KAI-KUN'S FRIEND SAID THAT

I DON'T CARE ANY MORE.
I'M GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL.
HE SAID THAT SINCE KAI DID A LOT OF MEAN THINGS TO YOU, YOU WOULD BE SATISFIED BY THAT.
THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T DENY YOUR LIES AND DIDN'T RESIST GETTING PUNCHED.
HUH?!
AND YOU ACTUALLY HATE ME, RIGHT?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT? I'M NOT TROUBLING ANYONE
YOU JUST STUCK WITH ME BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE, RIGHT?
I know that much!

YEAH, I HATE YOU.
I HATE YOU.
I REALLY HATE YOU.
...THEN, LEAVE.
AFTER YOU BECAME CLOSE TO SHIORI IN HIGH SCHOOL,
YOU STARTED MAKING FUN OF ME, RIGHT?
SINCE I WAS FAT, UGLY, AND DUMB, DIFFERENT FROM SHIORI...
YOU WERE SO NICE BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH.
....
I want to hang out with the Chika from the past, again!

"Ucchi! It's there look your number!"
"You've gotten into Negi High as well"
"Chika."
"You worked really hard, Ucchi! We can attend high school together."
GASP
Uhh
Uh
How did I become like this?
Uh
Chika
Uh
Waaah
Wah

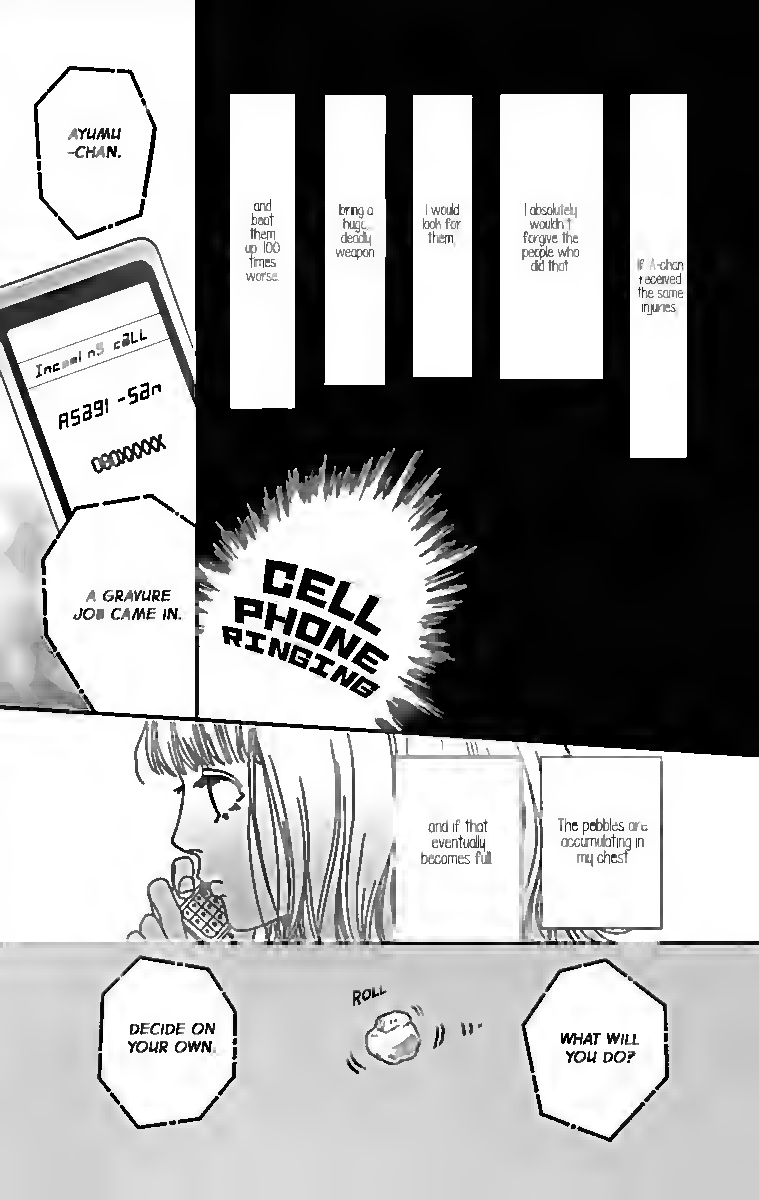
"When Kai was summoned I was hiding, on standby."
"He asked me, 'Since I don't know how injured I'll be if it's bad take me back to my house when it's over.'"
"But don't show up in the middle', he said."
"I'm irresponsible so I told you everything."
"He also told me 'Oh, also keep this a secret from Shion.'"
"Because I like senpai."
KNOCK KNOCK
I didn't know about that so I called him a complete idiot
Idiot

ONII-CHAN, KAI
ASKED ME TO GO OUT WITH HIM
SHI-CHAN, THE BATH IS AVAILABLE...
I went ahead first
...WHAT?

What...?
huh...?
Really?
...YOU SEEM PLEASED.
BECAUSE KAI'S A GOOD GUY
FURTHER-MORE, HE'S REALLY COOL.
THAT'S TRUE. HE IS PRETTY COOL.
DON'T YOU LIKE HIM AS WELL, SHI-CHAN?
HUH?
WELL, YOU WERE REALLY WORRIED WHEN KAI-KUN GOT INJURED, RIGHT?
YOU WERE WOR-RIED
AND EX-TREMELY ANGRY AT HIM, RIGHT?

I WON'T GO OUT WITH KAL
But
I do like him
I told him that he was stupid and that he better not fight or get injured again
I was really worried
Yeah
....
WHY?

SINCE IT WILL GET IN THE WAY OF MY WORK
A-chan doesn't get it


AYUMU -CHAN.
Incoming call
A5891-5an
0000000
A GRAVURE JOB CAME IN.
CELL PHONE RINGING
If A-chan received the same injuries
I absolutely wouldn't forgive the people who did that
I would look for them
bring a huge, deadly weapon
and beat them up 100 times worse.
The pebbles are accumulating in my chest
and if that eventually becomes full
DECIDE ON YOUR OWN.
ROLL
WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Summary

RS AVELYS
CL SICKENINGLYSWEET
TL ARYL
PR SNAXIA
TS ARYL
QC AVELYS

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シックスハーフ
SIX HALF
CHAPTER 23

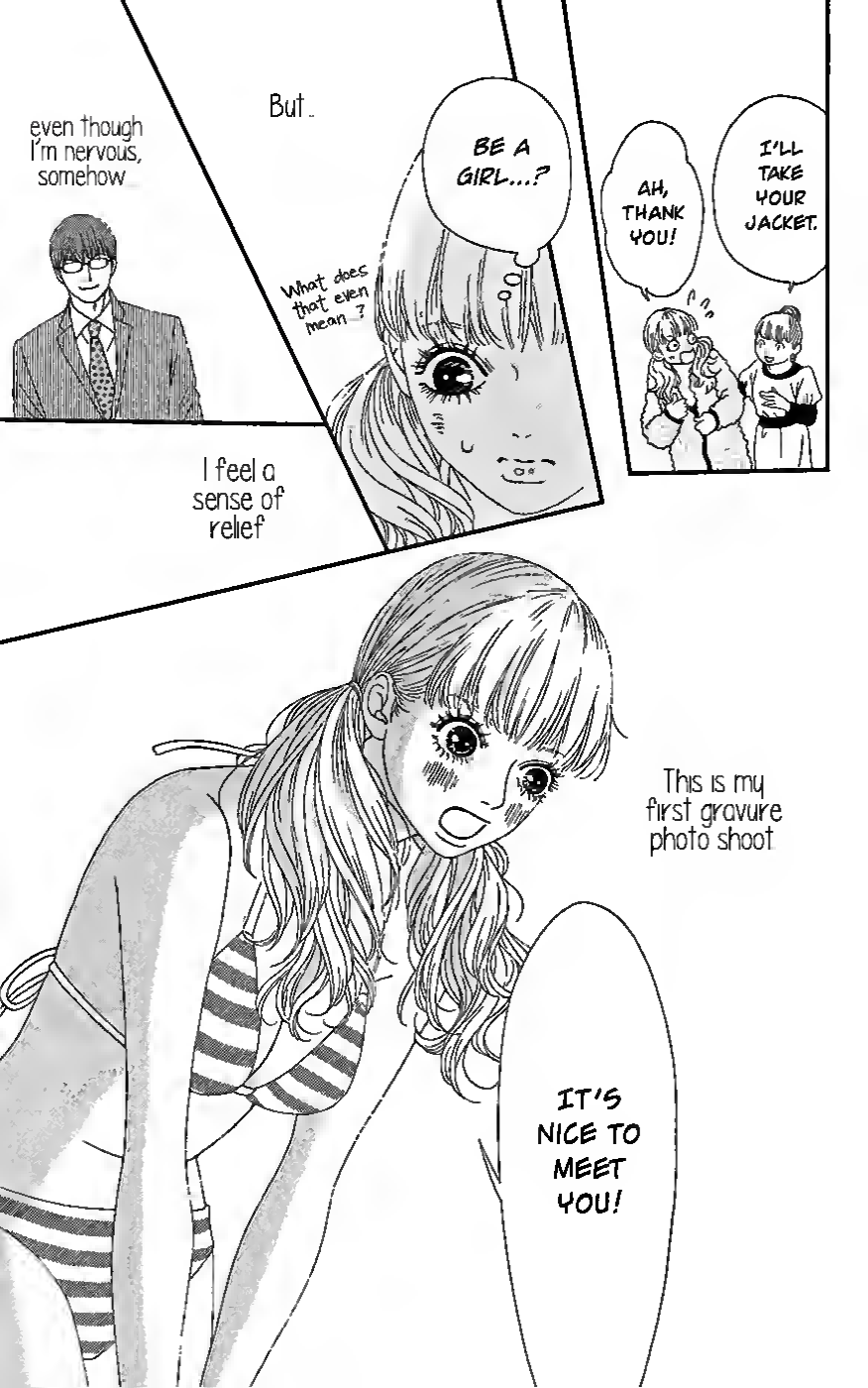
What should I do?

I'm starting to get cold feet

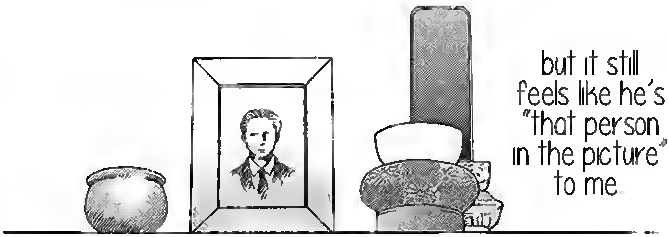
YOU NERVOUS?
YEAH...
WANT SOME ADVICE?
YES.
FIRST OF ALL, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FASHION AND A GRAVURE MAGAZINE IS..

THAT YOU
ARE THE MAIN CHARAC-TER...
..That made me even more nervous than I already was...
badump
badump
badump
SECOND OF ALL,
YOU'LL BE IN A SWIMSUIT FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT AFTER 30 MINUTES
ARE YOU SERIOUS ...?
You bastard, have you done this before?
LASTLY,

I PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU, SO
DO EVERY-THING IN YOUR POWER TO BE A GIRL.
KURATA-SAN, WE'RE STARTING THE SHOOT NOW. PLEASE COME OVER HERE.

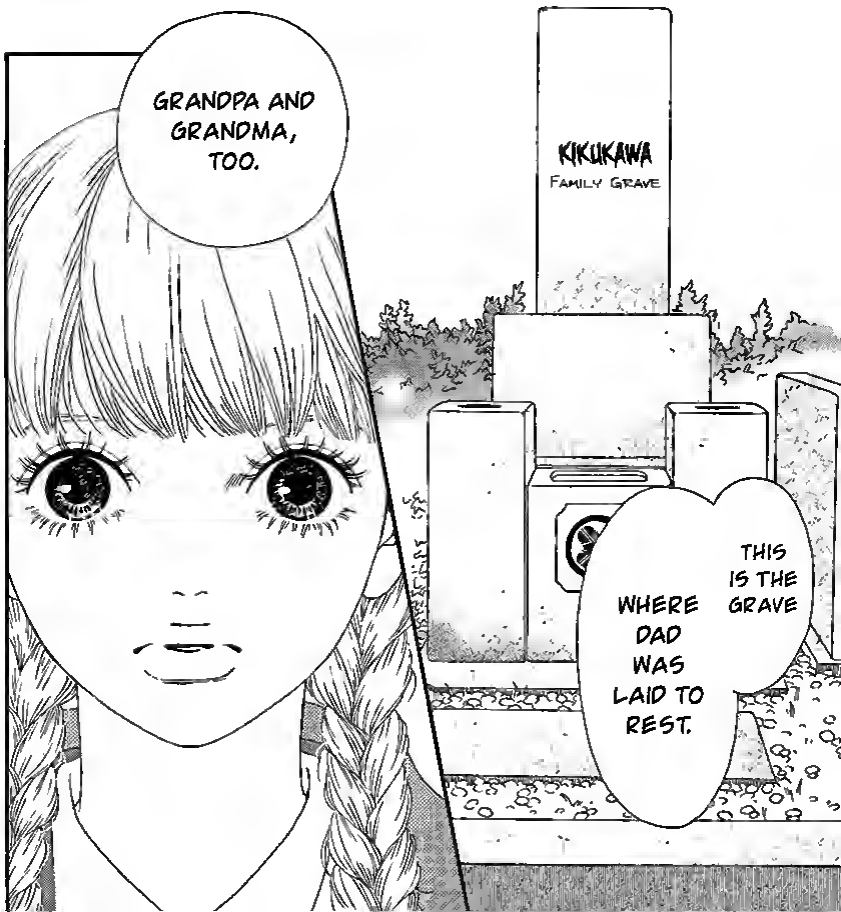

I'LL TAKE YOUR JACKET.
AH, THANK YOU!
BE A GIRL...?
What does that even mean...?
But...
even though I'm nervous, somehow...
I feel a sense of relief
This is my first gravure photo shoot
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!

TODAY'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF DAD'S DEATH. I TOLD YOU WE'D BE GOING TO VISIT, DIDN'T I?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT?
GLARE
Sleepy
VISITING THE FAMILY GRAVE?
NO WAY! OF COURSE I REMEMBER!
IT JUST SLIPPED MY MIND FOR A SECOND!
CRAP.. I TOTALLY FORGOT...


but it still feels like he's "that person in the picture" to me
I know he's my dad

As soon as I start wondering how he'll react, I get scared
rattle
=I still haven't told A-chan that I had a gravure shoot.
rattle
rattle
The cameraman and the staff were all so cheerful
It was so lively and my body gradually began to move on its own as the shoot went on
I didn't expect myself to have any fun there
THINK
I ACTUALLY LIKE HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN.
I...
We're on a bus now
THE GRAVE-YARD IS SO FAR AWAY

SHII-CHAN.
At some point during the shoot,
all my thoughts had disappeared without me realizing it


GRANDPA AND GRANDMA, TOO.
KIKUKAWA
FAMILY GRAVE
THIS IS THE GRAVE WHERE DAD WAS LAID TO REST.

LET'S GIVE IT A GOOD CLEAN FIRST.
Every morning,
this is the first time it's been made abundantly clear to me
GOOD MORN-ING, DAD.
I would follow A-chan and Maa-chan's example and greet his photo at the altar, but...

...that he is truly dead
The person who I call my father no longer exists in this world
DAD TOLD US WE DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF HOLDING A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HIM ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH.
WHY DIDN'T HE WANT US TO HOLD ONE?
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH OF OUR TIME TO ORGANIZE IT AND THAT IT WOULD BE A BURDEN ON US.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ONLY VISITING THE GRAVE.
THE FUNERAL WE HAD FOR HIM WAS EXCLUSIVELY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS, AND EXTREMELY SIMPLE.

...ACTUALLY, HE ARRANGED HIS OWN FUNERAL SERVICE BEFORE HE DIED.
WAS THAT ALSO WHAT HE WANTED?
STUFF LIKE SORTING OUT HIS WILL AND HIS INSURANCE...FROM HANDING OVER HIS WORK DUTIES, TO GETTING RID OF HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS...HE TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING BEFORE HE WAS HOSPITALIZED.
HE ALREADY KNEW HOW LONG HE HAD TO LIVE, SO ...
WHAT!?
DAD'S AMAZ-ING...
YEAH.
I WISH I COULD SEE HIM...

A-chan said that our dad was strict, and that he and I would often butt heads

What did he think of the me back then, I wonder?

And what would he think of the me right now?

GRA-VURE

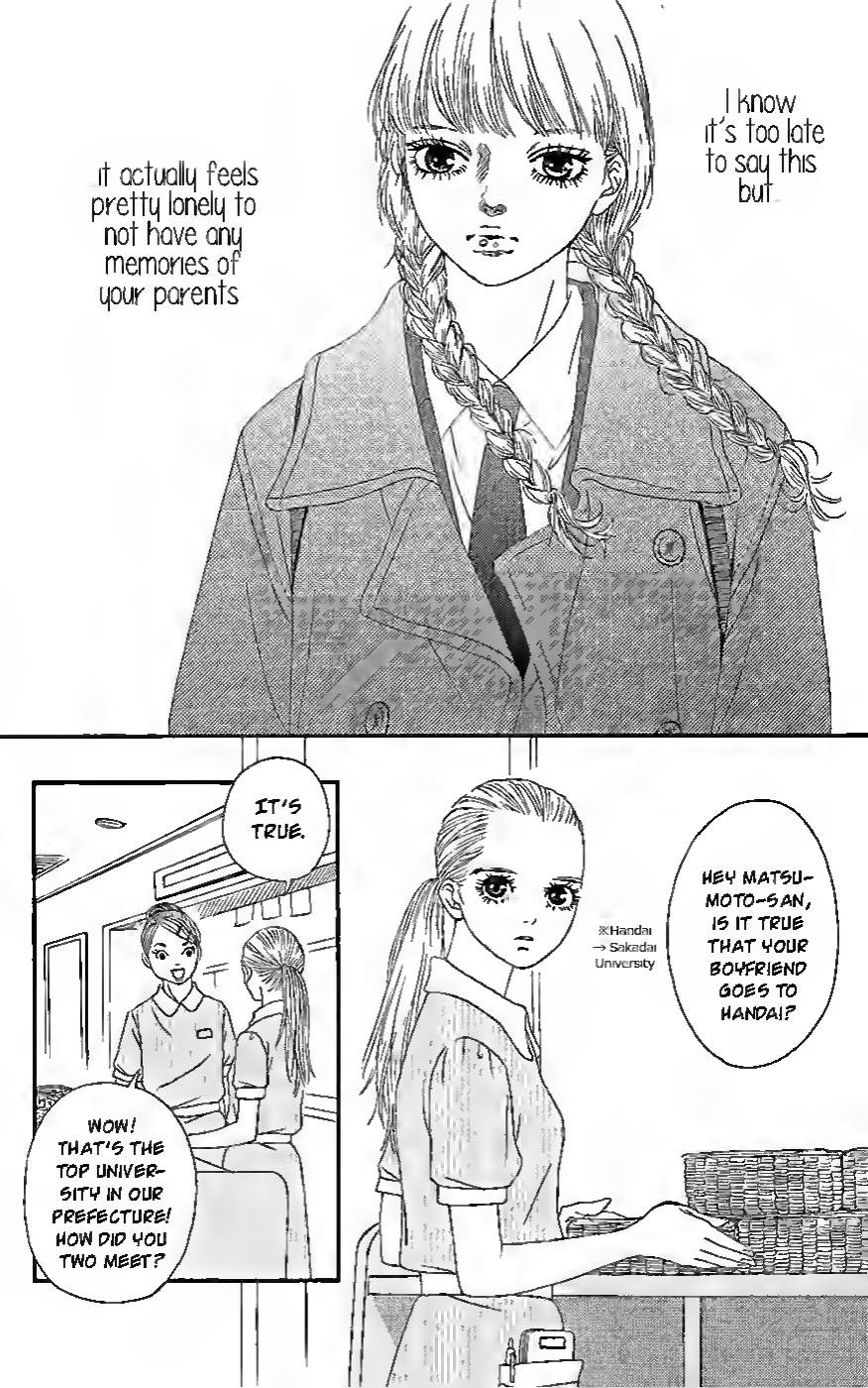
HE WOULD PROBA-BLY... NO, HE WOULD DEFI-NITELY BLOW HIS TOP IF HE KNEW...

Both A-chan and Maa-chan love dad dearly.

Hungry?

Yeah!

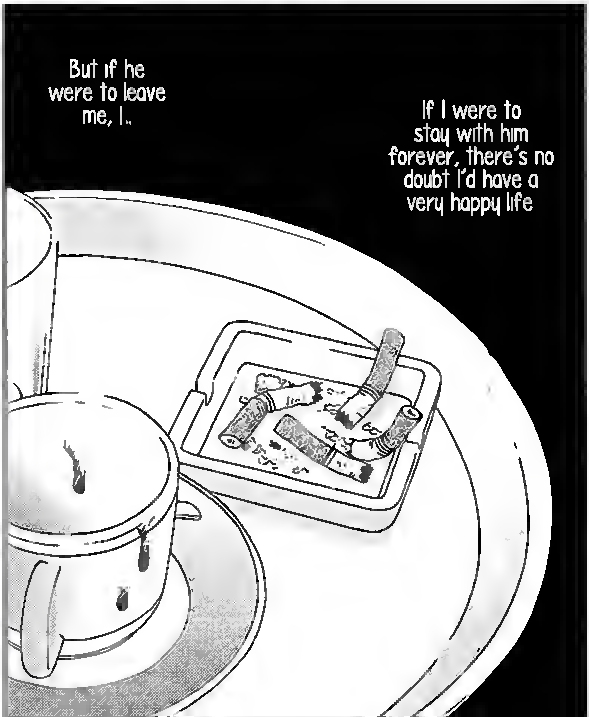
I want to eat some soba


I know it's too late to say this but...
It actually feels pretty lonely to not have any memories of your parents
HEY MATSUMOTO-SAN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND GOES TO HANDAI?
※Handai → Sakadai University
IT'S TRUE.
WOW! THAT'S THE TOP UNIVERSITY IN OUR PREFECTURE! HOW DID YOU TWO MEET?

AW, LUCKY~ HE'S DEFINITELY A CATCH!
A CATCH?
WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
WOW, REALLY? WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?
A HARD-WORKING AND KIND PERSON.
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT FOR SURE
I MEAN, IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND A JOB THESE DAYS.
MAYBE SO, BUT...
IF HE GRADUATES FROM THAT SCHOOL, HE'S SURE TO END UP WORKING FOR A GOOD COMPANY.
YOU'LL BE ON THE WINNING SIDE OF LIFE IF YOU MARRY HIM.
HAVING A BOYFRIEND WHO GOES TO A WELL-KNOWN UNIVERSITY IS STILL SOMETHING TO BE SUPER PROUD OF, ISN'T IT?
MATSUMOTO-SAN.

I GOT A CALL FROM YOSHIDA-SAN AND SHE SAID SHE CAN'T COME IN BECAUSE SHE'S SICK ..
SORRY FOR SUDDENLY PUTTING THIS ON YOU, BUT COULD YOU WORK UNTIL EVENING TODAY?
YES, MANAGER?
What can I do for you?
Not only are you the humble but you're short, too
YOU LET YOUR EMPLOYEES OFF TOO EASY,
THAT'S WHY THAT PART-TIMER IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
Peeeeep!
OH, WHAT A RELIEF SORRY FOR ALWAYS GIVING YOU TROUBLE.
SURE, I DON'T MIND.
YOU REALLY SAVED MY BUTT. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I DIDN'T START DATING AKIO-CHAN BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO A GOOD SCHOOL.
OF COURSE, I DO ADMIRE HIM FOR BEING GOOD AT STUDYING.

As for me,
I'm a high school graduate and a part-timer. I have no qualifications or a professional career. I don't have any particular hobbies either.
If Akio-chan wasn't my boyfriend,
I'd have nothing at all.


But if he were to leave me, I...
If I were to stay with him forever, there's no doubt I'd have a very happy life

BYE, UCCHI.
BYE, SHIORI.
BYE, KIKUKAWA-SAN!
BYE! SEE YOU TOMO-RROW.
RING RING RING
She's ignoring me like always.
Not that I give a damn, though...
CHIKA SEEMS KIND OF DIFFER-ENT...

I HEARD YOUR HAIR AND MAKE-UP PHOTOS WERE WELL-RECEIVED.
FROM OOWADA-SAN?
APPARENTLY, IN A RECENT SURVEY, A BUNCH OF PEOPLE HAD WRITTEN THAT THEY FIND KURATA AHUMU-CHAN TO BE VERY CUTE.
YOU HAVE ANOTHER COOKIE STYLE PHOTO SHOOT THIS MONTH.
NO WAY, FOR REAL!? THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY!
You're not pulling my leg, right?
OH, AND ABOUT YOUR GRAVURE PHOTOS...
THEY WERE ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH, BUT BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME SPACE IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE, THEY DECIDED TO MAKE A SWITCH AND USE YOUR PHOTOS.
WHAT!?

Are you serious!?
It should arrive some time today, I think.
SORRY FOR NOT TELLING YOU SOONER. I FORGOT.
BY THE WAY, THEY WERE RELEASED YESTERDAY. A COPY HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO YOUR HOME.
PASS.
WE CAN DROP BY A KARAOKE BAR IN SAKADAI ON THE WA...
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.
fwoosh
Ambushing
SHIORI.
Rejected today as well...

HEY, IT'S AKIO-KUN!
THESE TWO ARE MY FRIENDS FROM UNIVERSITY.
Hello
Oh!
IS SHE THE ONE YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL
Ha ha ha
YEAH.
THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, MIZUKI-CHAN.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU'VE BEEN LAUGHING FOR A WHILE NOW.
IT'S NOTHING.
Tee hee hee

IT'LL BE CHRISTMAS SOON, HUH?
OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.
YEAH...
YOU KNOW, I TOLD MY MANAGER THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL HAVE ME WORKING ON THE 24TH AND THE 25TH!
UH, MIZUKI-CHAN. ABOUT THAT...
LET'S HAVE A PARTY AT YOUR HOUSE ON THE 24TH.
UM... BUT...
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TEXT MESSAGE YOU SENT ME LAST

"I'VE ALWAYS SPENT CHRISTMAS WITH MY FAMILY."
"UNTIL MAA-CHAN STARTS SPENDING IT WITH SOMEBODY ELSE, I WILL NOT GET MYSELF A GIRLFRIEND."
...UWAAAH! I THINK I DID SEND SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
Ughhhh! Why did I do that!? It's so embarrassing!
I FELT SO RELIEVED AFTER READING IT.
"AKIO-CHAN MIGHT NOT GET A GIRLFRIEND FOR A WHILE," I THOUGHT.
ANYWAY,
SINCE I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND NOW, UNTIL MAA-CHAN STARTS SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH SOMEBODY ELSE,
I'LL SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, AND WE'LL HAVE A DATE WITH JUST THE TWO OF US THE NEXT DAY.

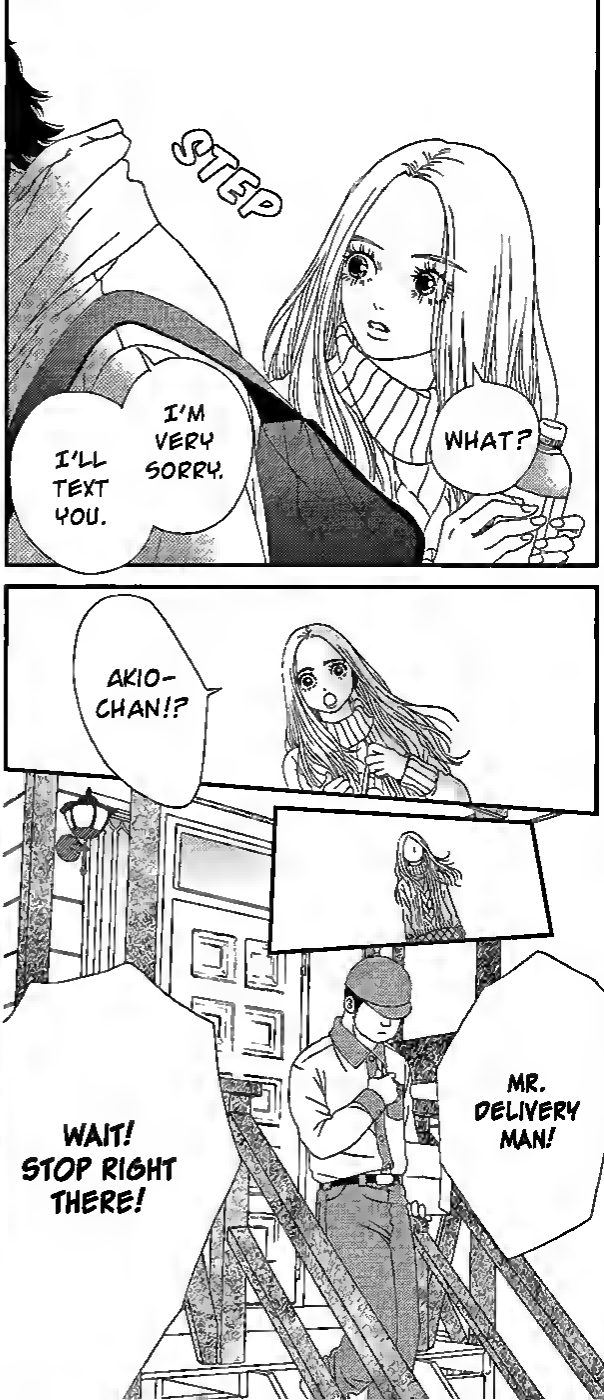
BOTH MAA-CHAN AND SHII-CHAN WILL PROBABLY TELL ME, "IT'S CHRISTMAS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT US AND JUST GO OUT ON A DATE!"
AND I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO DO THAT, BUT...!
I JUST CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT THOSE TWO...
WHAT'S WRONG?
...OH MAN, WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
I'M SO HAPPY, IT'S SCARING ME...
...
THANKS FOR ALWAYS PUTTING MY FAMILY FIRST, MIZUKI-CHAN.

It's fine

I want to become a lover that Akio-chan absolutely needs

HEY, ISN'T THIS... AN EROTIC MAGAZINE?
FLIP FLIP FLIP
...
週刊プレイB
ANNIVERSARY

SORRY, MIZUKI-CHAN.
I KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER, BUT I HAVE TO GO HOME.
週刊プレイB


STEP
WHAT?
I'M VERY SORRY.
I'LL TEXT YOU.
AKIO-CHAN!?
MR. DELIVERY MAN!
WAIT! STOP RIGHT THERE!

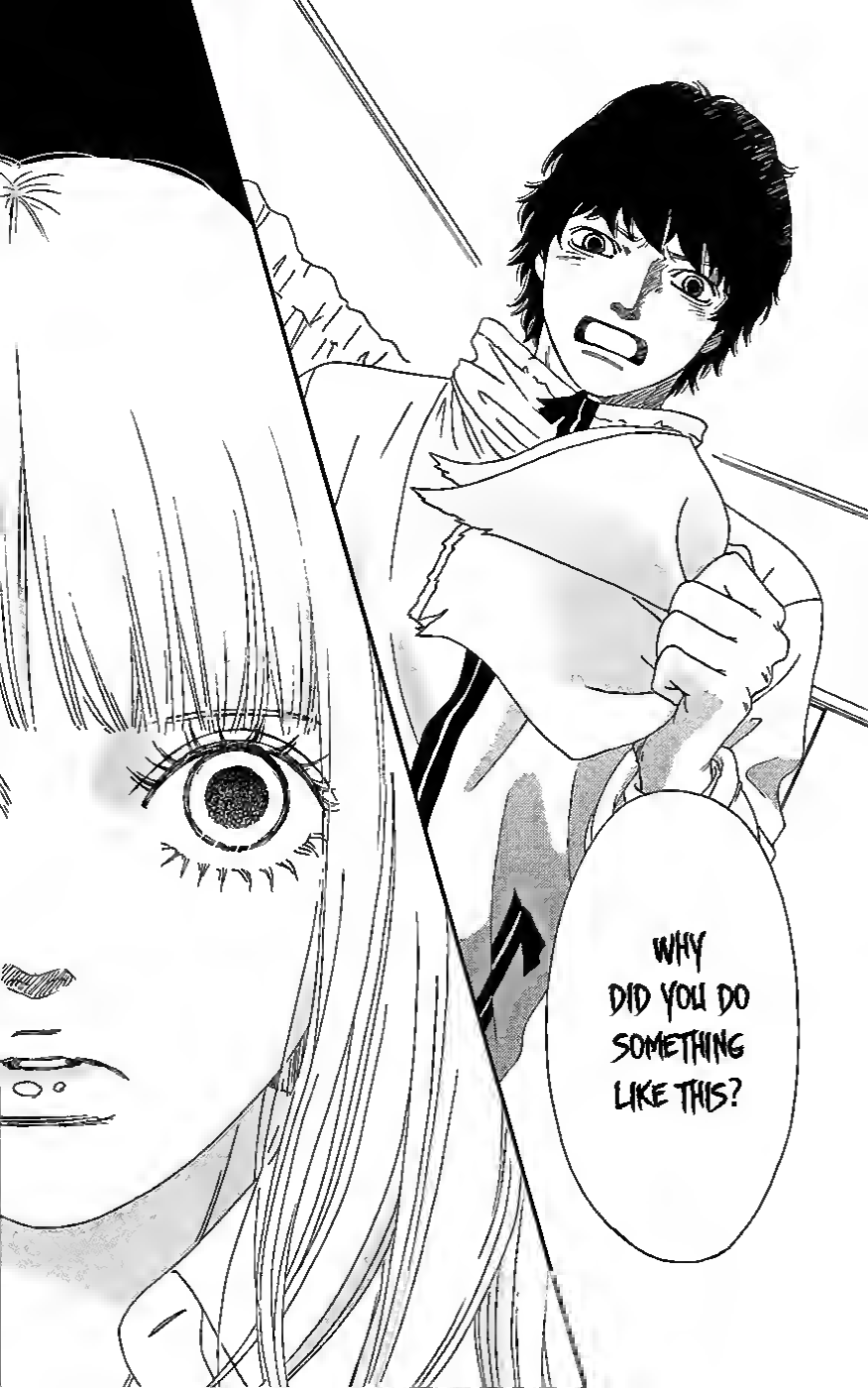
MAN, I CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME...
SO I WAS RIGHT.
DO YOU LIVE IN THIS HOUSE?
YES!
I HAVE A DELIVERY FOR KIKUKAWA SHIORI-SAN...
THAT'S ME!
and I'll do everything I can to hide it away from A-chan and Maa-chan...
thump
If I find it gross, I won't do gravure work ever again,
If I think it's good...

NICE TO MEET YOU
くらた歩
Kurata Ayumu
I...

HAHA ...
AAAH ...
HAA-AA...
flop
Thank goodness
プレイB
HELLS
I'M ACTUALLY SMILING...
I'VE NEVER SMILED THIS MUCH IN ANY OF THE PHOTOS I'VE BEEN IN UNTIL NOW.
It was a job I took out of desperation
and I was terrified of how it would turn out
I'm glad this is the result

I FEEL A LITTLE EMBARRASSED TO SHOW THIS TO A-CHAN, THOUGH...
AH, BUT DIDN'T HE ALREADY SEE ME IN A SWIMSUIT WHEN WE WERE AT THE BEACH?
IN ANY CASE, I'LL ASK HIM TO LOOK AT IT.
AND I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TELLING HIM ABOUT IT BEFOREHAND.
A-chan will approve, I'm sure of it
KAI...
WILL PROBABLY SULK AGAIN IF HE SEES...
CLACK
If dad were still alive, he'd...

panicking
A... A-CHAN, WHEN DID YOU GET HOME?
WAIT, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON A DATE WITH MIZUKI-SAN TODAY?
UH...
I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THAT.
UM, YOU SEE...
HELLS BEAR
RIP


WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

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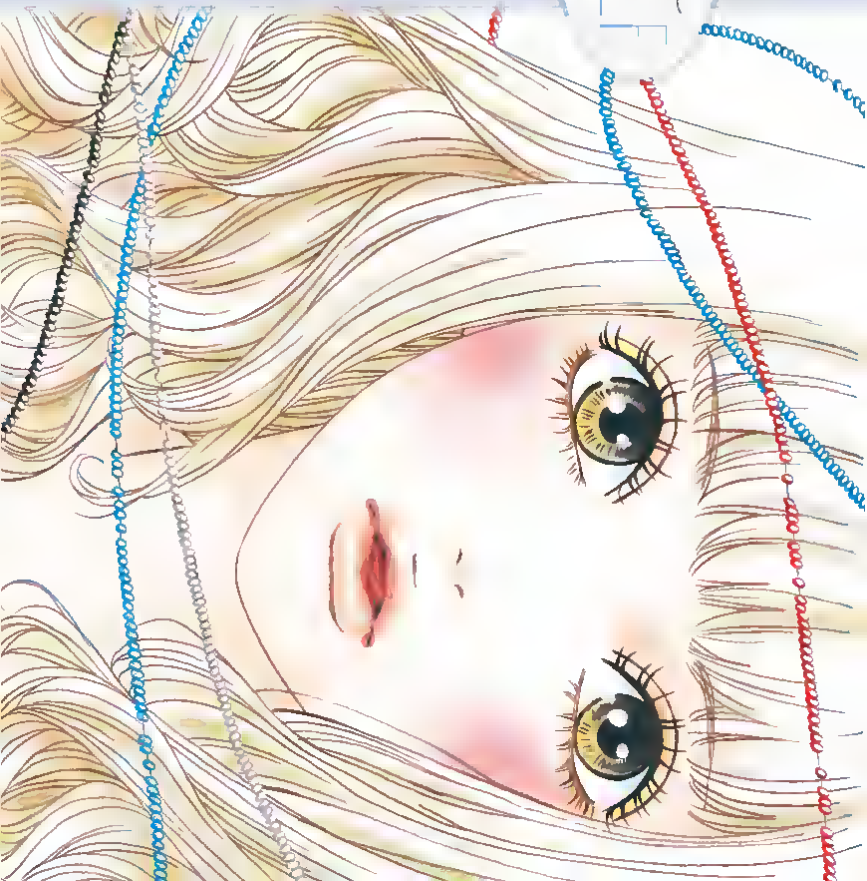
RAWS AVELYS TRANSLATION ARYL PROOF
READ SNAXIA CLEANING SICKENINGLYSWEET
TYPESET ARYL QUALITY CHECK AVELYS

chapter 24
SIX HALF



I was
so sure
that A-chan
would like this
picture

SIX HALF
Chapter 24
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WHY DID YOU DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS?
SHII-CHAN.
ANSWER ME.

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BECOME A MODEL?
I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE DO!
EVEN FASHION MAGAZINES WILL MAKE YOU WEAR SWIMSUITS
AND EVERYONE'S DOING GRA-VURE THESE DAYS...

SHII-CHAN, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO DO A JOB THAT INVOLVES SELLING YOURSELF TO MEN.
AND HOW YOU WILL BE SEEN BY THE WORLD FOR DOING IT.
YOU MUSTN'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO SIMPLY.
I WILL LODGE A COMPLAINT TO ASAGI-SAN.

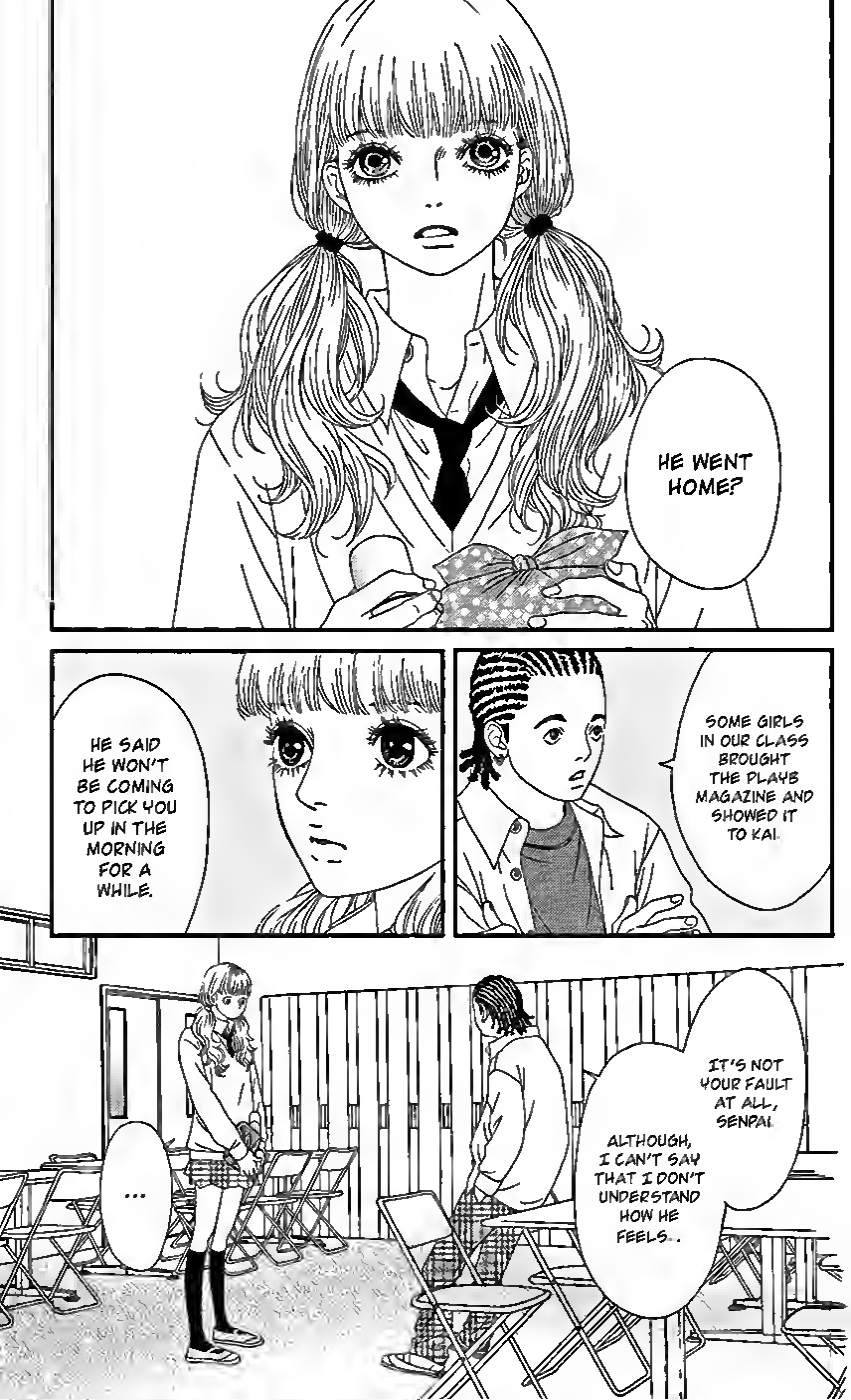
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THAT LONG SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING AS A MODEL AND YOU'RE ALREADY DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS IT'S MAKING ME WORRY SO I CAN'T LET YOU CONTINUE WORKING IN ANYTHING LIKE ENTERTAINMENT ANYMORE
I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID I'D DO IT!
DON'T!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I
AM GLAD I DID THIS JOB...

YOU'D ALWAYS TELL ME WHENEVER YOU HAD A JOB.
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS ONE?
A-CHAN!
COOL YOUR HEAD, SHII-CHAN.
...
THAT'S BECAUSE...

I DON'T WANT TO.
JUST TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT IT
LOOK AT THIS ONE MORE TIME...

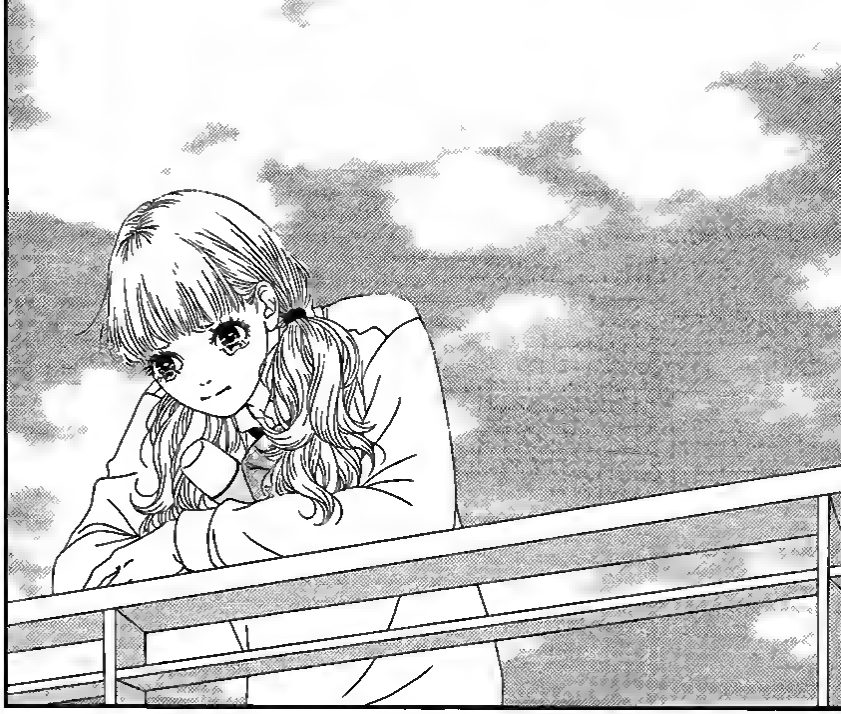
WELCOME HOME.
...
I'M BACK.

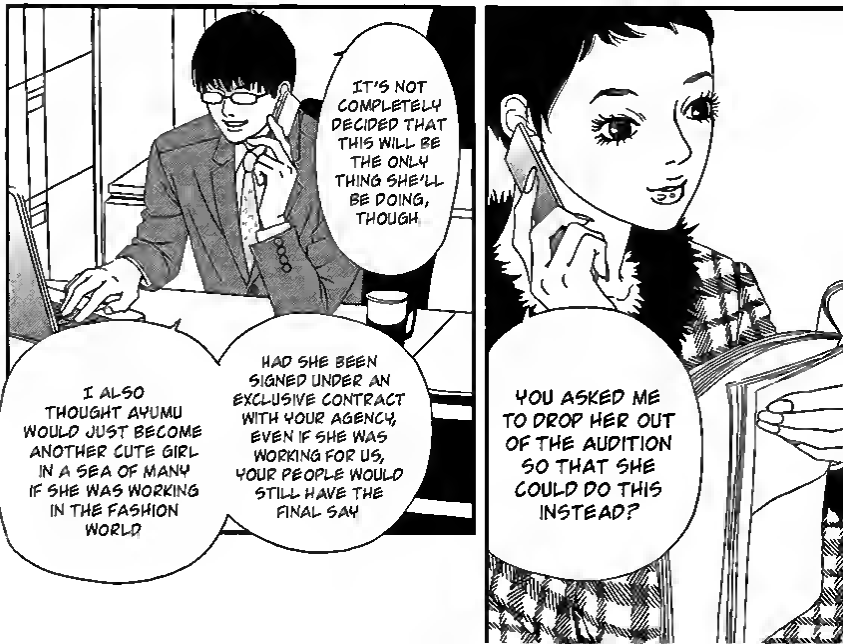
ANNIVERSARY YEAR


HE WENT HOME?
HE SAID HE WON'T BE COMING TO PICK YOU UP IN THE MORNING FOR A WHILE.
SOME GIRLS IN OUR CLASS BROUGHT THE PLAYS MAGAZINE AND SHOWED IT TO KAI.
...
ALTHOUGH, I CAN'T SAY THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE FEELS..
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL, SENPAI.

HUH?
K-KURATA AYUMU-SAN!
GO TALK TO HER!
THERE SHE IS!
I'M A FAN!
PLEASE LET ME RUB YOUR BOOBS!
AYUMU-CHAN, CAN I GET YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
HE HEHE
GOOD JOB!
PERVERTS.
FUCK OFF.
TRASH.

dash
HEEEY, ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE SAYING SOMETHING THAT OFFENSIVE TO YOUR FANS?
"Shii-chan, you don't understand"
"About what it means to do a job that involves selling yourself to men"
"And how you will be seen by the world for doing it"
"I don't want you to become a celebrity"
"Because I'm worried"
"and"
"I don't want other men to set their eyes on you"




IT'S NOT COMPLETELY DECIDED THAT THIS WILL BE THE ONLY THING SHE'LL BE DOING, THOUGH
I ALSO THOUGHT AYUMU WOULD JUST BECOME ANOTHER CUTE GIRL IN A SEA OF MANY IF SHE WAS WORKING IN THE FASHION WORLD
HAD SHE BEEN SIGNED UNDER AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WITH YOUR AGENCY, EVEN IF SHE WAS WORKING FOR US, YOUR PEOPLE WOULD STILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY
YOU ASKED ME TO DROP HER OUT OF THE AUDITION SO THAT SHE COULD DO THIS INSTEAD?

I SEE YOU KNOW, IT REALLY CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT STONE-FACED GIRL COULD SMILE LIKE THAT
IT SURPRISED ME, TOO.
HAHAHA, YOU THINK?
AH, SORRY, OWADA-SAN. I HAVE ANOTHER CALL COMING IN.
I THINK SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY
SHE'S PROBABLY THINKING, "WHO KNEW I COULD MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT?" OR SOMETHING

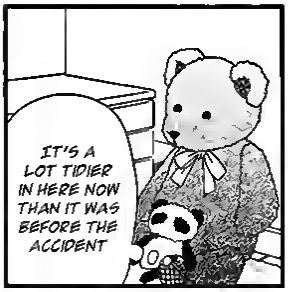
Incoming Call
Kikukawa Akio
AS EXPECTED.

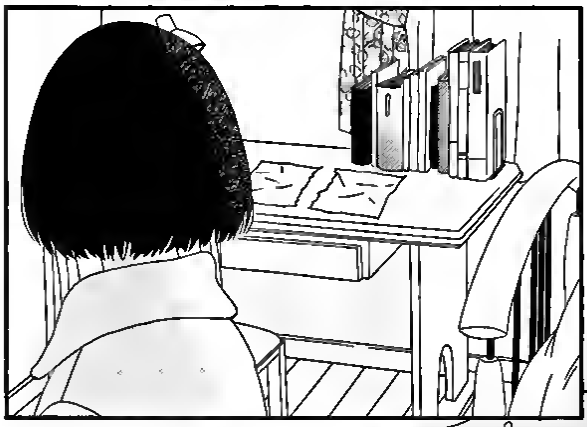
HMM...
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HOME YET.
I'M HOME.

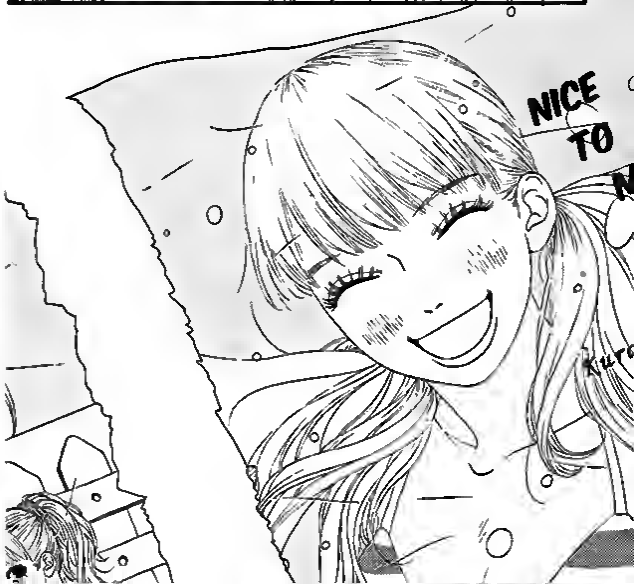
...and so,

thank you for your continued support ♡

-Iketani Rikako







HOW DO YOU READ THIS KANJI?
保齢球
Tom's answer is "a swing"
Let's flip the card
SHII-CHAN, ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE A BATH?
YEAH, BUT SINCE I'LL BE IN THERE A LONG TIME, I'LL TAKE MINE LAST
SURE
THAT WAS DELICIOUS THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL

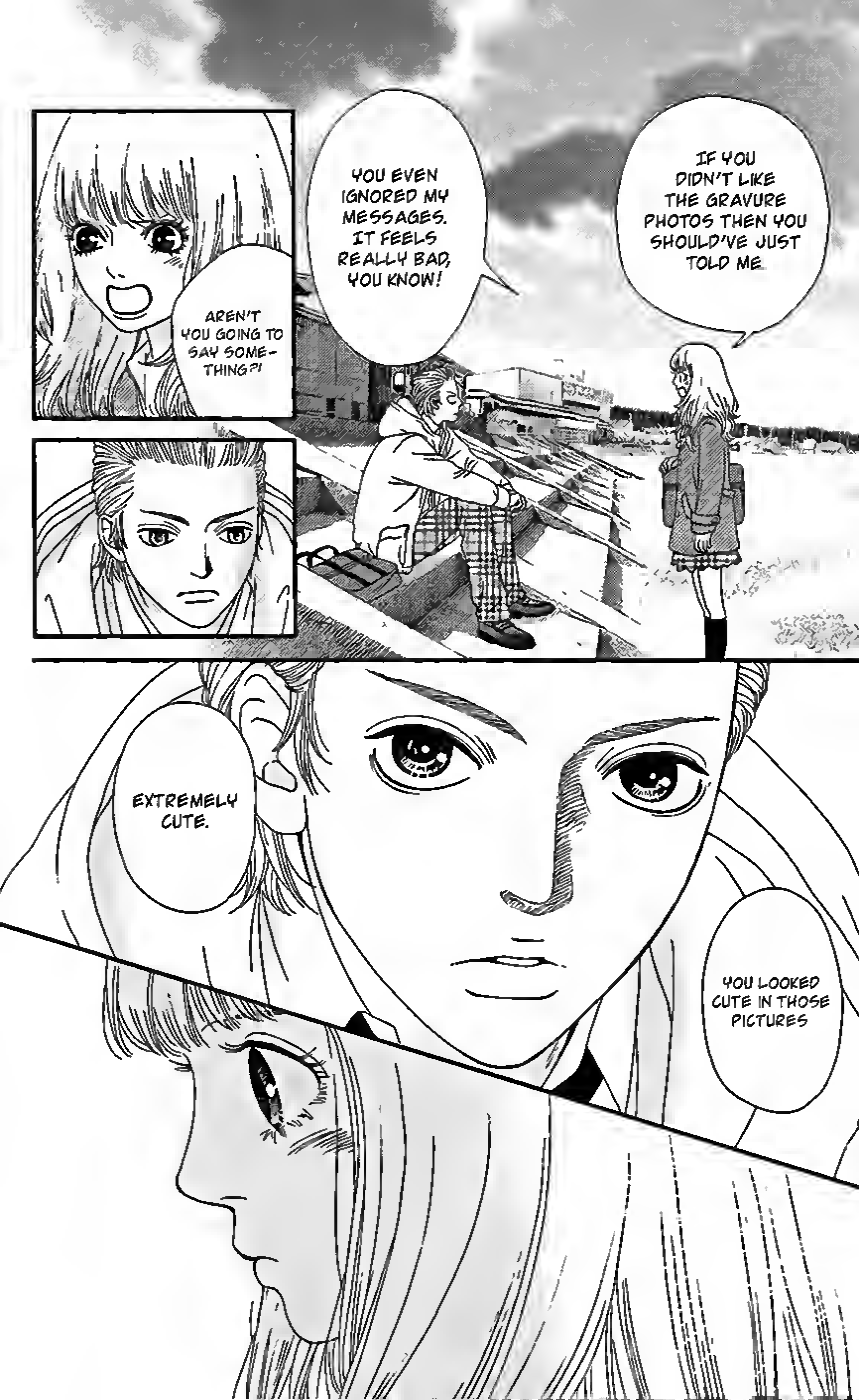
...A-CHAN
YES?
...
IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO STICK UP FOR HER ANYWAY...
YOU KNOW WHAT, NEVERMIND
...AH,
"I saw them, but I don't think they were that bad"
"Did you two have a fight because of her swimsuit pictures?"

PLEASE DON'T LET HER DO GRAVURE.
BUT..
PLAYB IS A MAGAZINE THAT RULES THE GRAVURE WORLD.
AND THE PHOTOS OF AYUMU-CHAN THAT WERE RELEASED THE OTHER DAY WERE ALSO WELL-RECEIVED
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
MY SISTER IS STILL A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
I DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WORK IN THE ENTERTAIN-MENT INDUSTRY, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE MY SISTER WEAR SWIMSUITS FOR A BOOK THAT'S BEING MARKETED TOWARDS ADULT MEN, THEN I WANT YOU TO PUT AN END TO HER MODELING CAREER THIS INSTANT
KIKU-KAWA-SAN
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT OUR PARENTS ARE NO LONGER WITH US.

BEFORE MY FATHER DIED, HE ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER MY SISTERS
IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT THEM.
WHEN I SAW KIKUKAWA SHIORI FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT WAS IN THE WAITING ROOM FOR THE COOKIE STYLE AUDITION INTERVIEW
ALL THE OTHER GIRLS WERE NERVOUS AND LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO RUN AWAY AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT.
BUT SHIORI-SAN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO STOOD IN THERE WITH AN EMPTY EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.
SHE WASN'T LIKE THAT BECAUSE SHE WAS IN A STATE OF COMPOSURE.
BUT HER MIND WASN'T BLANK, EITHER.

THE EDITOR WHO WAS ONE OF THE INTERVIEWERS IS AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE
WHEN SHE ASKED SHIORI-SAN WHY SHE CAME TO THE AUDITION, SHE SAID THIS.
"I don't have anything"
"Nothing at all"
"That's why I thought that if I did something, I'll be able to gain something"
WHEN SHE STARTED WORKING FOR US,
YOU TOLD ME ABOUT HER CONDITION, ABOUT HOW AN ACCIDENT CAUSED HER TO HAVE AMNESIA, AND THAT YOU WANTED ME TO BE COMPASSIONATE
I THINK I WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY

HAVING NO MEMORIES AND NO PAST MUST FEEL SO LONELY THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T POSSIBLY IMAGINE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE AFTER ALL.
JOLT

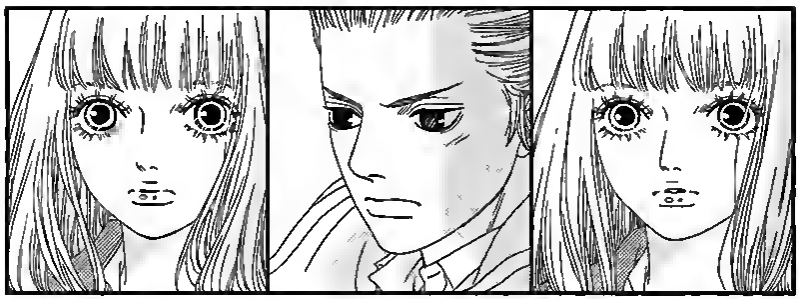

IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE GRAVURE PHOTOS THEN YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD ME
YOU EVEN IGNORED MY MESSAGES. IT FEELS REALLY BAD, YOU KNOW!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?!
YOU LOOKED CUTE IN THOSE PICTURES
EXTREMELY CUTE.

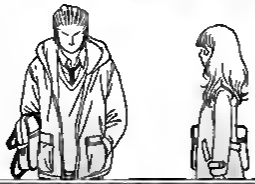
I DON'T THINK I CAN DEAL WITH IT.
BUT, AS I THOUGHT,
I KNOW YOU CARE AND SUPPORT SHIORI-SAN A LOT.
SHE EVEN SAID THIS.
"IF THAT BROTHER AND SISTER OF MINE WEREN'T FAMILY, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE HOUSE AND DIED ALONE OUT BY THE ROAD-SIDE."

RIGHT NOW, SHE'S DESPERATELY TRYING TO SHAPE HERSELF.
SHE'S TRYING TO FILL UP THE PART OF HER THAT SHE LOST.
FINDING FRIENDS, BEING LOVED BY ANOTHER,
BEING RECOGNIZED THROUGH ONE'S WORK OR HOBBIES
BUT LOVE ALONE FROM ONE'S PARENTS AND SIBLINGS CANNOT SATISFY A PERSON.
THEY WILL STILL HAVE THIS NEED TO SEEK THE VALUE OF THEIR OWN EXISTENCE IN SOCIETY
I THINK SHIORI-SAN WANTS TO TRY DOING ANY JOB SHE CAN GET
BECAUSE SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SHE CAN DO.

PLEASE, KIKUKAWA-SAN.
CAN'T YOU BE A BIT MORE TOLERANT AND LET ME KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SISTER'S CAREER FOR LITTLE WHILE LONGER?
I TALKED TOO MUCH AND NOW I'M TIRED AS HELL...
PHEW
...
DEAL WITH IT..? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'LL BECOME FAMOUS IN THE WORLD OF SHOW BUSINESS.
I'M PROBABLY BEING PETTY, BUT I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT.
I CAN DEAL WITH HAVING A ONE-SIDED LOVE,
BUT NOT THIS I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN DEAL WITH THIS.
PHOTOS OF YOU IN A SWIM-SUIT ARE GOING TO BE SOLD,
AND A LOT OF GUYS IN JAPAN WILL SEE YOUR SMILING FACE.
I CAN'T ROOT FOR YOU AND I DEFINITELY CAN'T PUT UP WITH IT, EITHER.
THAT'S WHY,
I THINK WE SHOULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

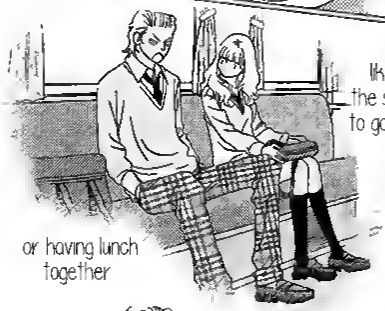




Kai is going to disappear?

Right in front of me?

He's been with me since the time I first opened my eyes

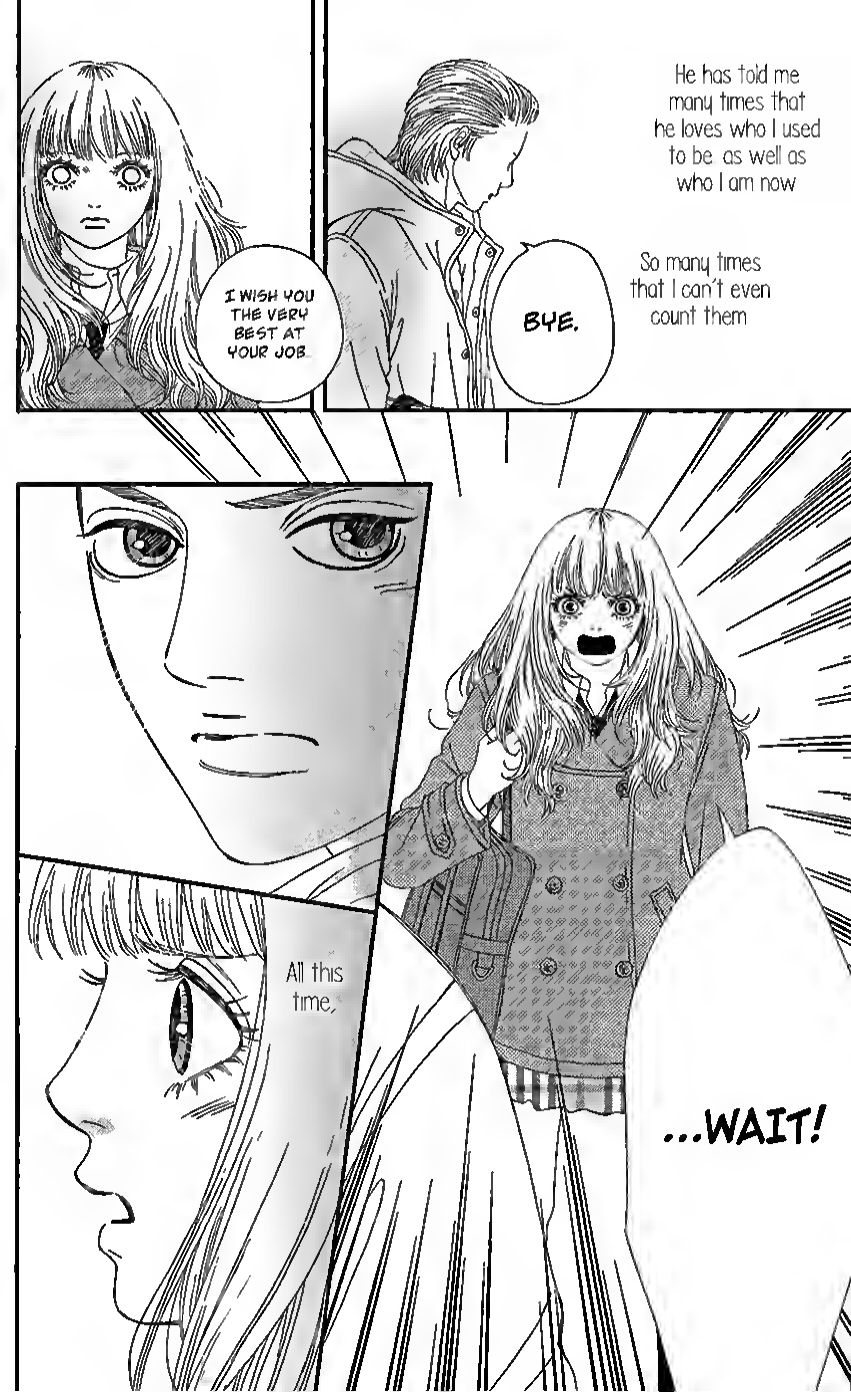


We're not even family, yet he's been a pretty big part of the short life I've had so far

like taking the same train to go to school,

or having lunch together

The time we spent together,


I WISH YOU THE VERY BEST AT YOUR JOB.
BYE.
He has told me many times that he loves who I used to be as well as who I am now
So many times that I can't even count them
All this time,
...WAIT!

I'm also scared of being hated by the people at school
It still scares me now
I was scared of being hated by A-chan and Maa-chan

and I feel so relaxed that I completely forget about being hated
But whenever I'm with Kai, I feel at ease
That Kai

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR, AKIO?
is going to disappear
right in front of me

DISAP-POINTED?
...I'M SO DISAP-POINTED IN MYSELF
ASAGI-SAN UNDERSTANDS SHII-CHAN A LOT BETTER THAN I DO...
Just take a good look at it!
A-chan, look at this one more time
IT'S SO FRUS-TRATING
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S MY OWN SISTER
AND SHAME-FUL...